

# The WHOLE TRUTH Church of God in Christ

PURPOSED TO INSPIRE AND INFORM COGIC READERS AND CHRISTIANS EVERYWHERE

Since 1895



Highlight of CHAIRLADY Joyce Rodgers

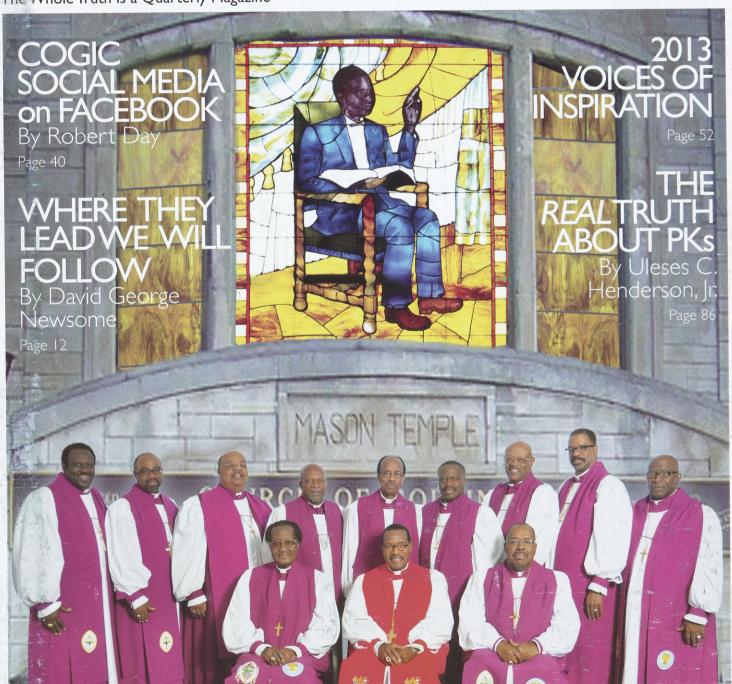
# Youth N.O.W.

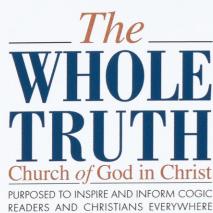
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November / December 2013

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Since 1895

Volume 118, Number 3

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Bishop Phillip A. Brooks, II First Assistant Presiding Bishop

Bishop Jerry W. Macklin Second Assistant Presiding Bishop

Bishop Roy L.H. Winbush

Bishop George D. McKinney

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Of
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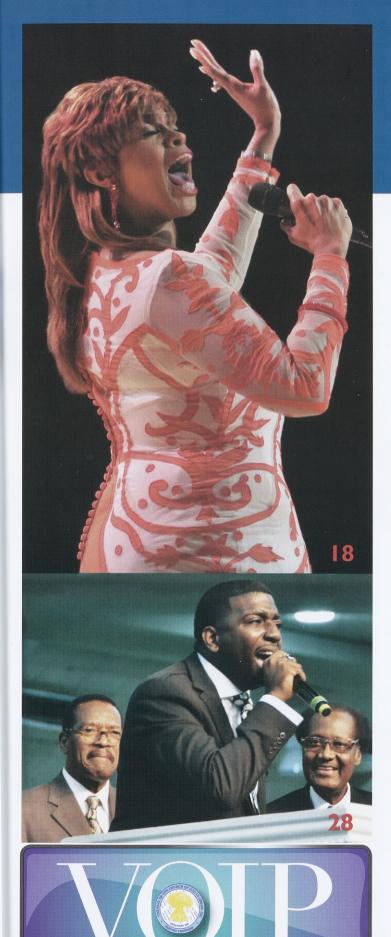
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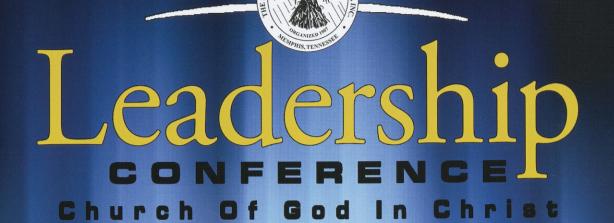
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DALLAS, TEXAS • JANUARY 20-23

# SAVETHE DATE

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# From The Desk of Presiding Bishop Charles E. Blake, Sr.



"Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever."

(Psalm 107:1, NKJV)

# Greetings Dear Readers:

The season of Thanksgiving is always an opportune time to reflect on the Lord's abundance of goodness and grace towards us. Although we should practice expressing our gratitude to Him unfailingly each day, this Thanksgiving, consider "giving" an overabundant harvest of "thanks" to God, simply because He is. This should certainly come easy for all who have developed and maintain an "attitude of gratitude," continuously mindful of every miniscule blessing that the Lord affords us. But let it also be a perfect starting point for those who may fall short in the area of consistent gratitude toward the Savior.

Today, I am overwhelmingly grateful for the 2013 Voices of Inspiration whom we honor in this issue of *The Whole Truth*. What a wonderful way to celebrate the Lord's people who tirelessly labor to edify, educate and encourage others. The Church Of God In Christ salutes each of you, and we say "thank you" for your ceaseless efforts that shall never be in vain.

As always, we pray that you find this issue of *The Whole Truth* to be a stimulating source of inspiration for whatever you may face today. We hope that you will purpose to share this issue with others. Together, let us continue to be beacons of hope for those who have lost their way. This season, before you contemplate your own desires, seek out those who are in need and be a unique blessing to them, however the Lord may lead you. Let us never boast or forget all that God has done and continues to do for us. Let us always remember His goodness because His love for us will never fail; and we bless His name.

In His Service,

Charles Blake

Bishop Charles E. Blake, Sr. Presiding Bishop

Church of God In Christ, Inc.

The Seventh In Succession

MATOR SORIA

Is your pastor remarkable?

Has your pastor influenced the community?

Has your ministry flourished under your pastor's leadership?

Has your pastor made a significant impact on the local, state and/or national levels?

If you answered yes to any or all of these questions, The Whole Truth wants to hear from you

# ANNOUNCING CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST'S (COGIC'S)

2014 100 INFLUENTIAL PASTORS

The Whole Truth will recognize 100 influential COGIC pastors in a special edition of TWT in May/June 2014. Members from COGIC churches across the world are invited to nominate their pastors to be included in this special group of leaders who will receive much deserved recognition.

The WHOLE TRUTH
Church of God in Christ
Since 1895



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INFLUENTIAL 14
Pastors

# TO NOMINATE YOUR PASTOR:

Visit www.cogic.org and click on the 100 Influential Pastors link.

Submit all required information, including an essay (500 words or less) describing why your pastor should be recognized as one of COGIC's 100 Influential Pastors.

There is no limit on the number of nominations each candidate can receive.

The nominated pastor must be a current pastor of a Church Of God In Christ, active in one of COGIC's jurisdictions (domestic or foreign). They should have served a minimum of three years in the senior pastor role. Please also submit a high-quality, high-resolution picture of the pastor you're nominating.

TWT reserves the right to nullify any nomination and has sole responsibility of the final list. All documents submitted become the property of TWT.

Nominations are due by 11:59 pm on Friday, January 31, 2014.

www.COGIC.org

# LETTER from the EDITOR



# CONGRATULATIONS to the 2013 VOICES of INSPIRATION!

Dear Readers:

We're thoroughly thrilled for this issue of *The Whole Truth* that highlights some of COGIC's greatest sources of inspiration. In this issue, we present to you, for the second consecutive year, another amazing cohort of Voices of Inspiration award recipients. The 29 recipients whom we are saluting in this edition are inarguably some of God's choicest, front-line warriors. From young COGIC kids in Christ to the more experienced and seasoned soldiers, their committed efforts to work while it's yet day are sure to uplift the downtrodden and encourage all to press forth!

The 2013 Voices of Inspiration award recipients were again nominated by their peers, fellow laborers and loved ones. Brief essays were submitted to *The Whole Truth* to explain in detail why each nominee should be highly regarded as a voice of inspiration. The essays were carefully judged by the Voices of Inspiration Committee, chaired by TWT contributor, Elder David George Newsome, and as you'll soon experience for yourself, this year's results are truly something to talk about.

I would like to extend a very warm and enthusiastic "CONGRATULA-TIONS" to all of the 2013 Voices of Inspiration recipients, as well as to ALL who were noted by others as being worthy of nomination. Many thanks to each of you for being such positive examples throughout your communities, among your families, and within the Body of Christ.

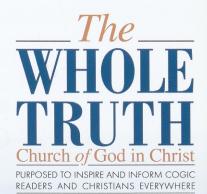
And as always, we pray that you will find something intriguing, encouraging and informative within these pages. Please know that for each issue, it is our sincere endeavor to produce soul-stirring, edifying articles and material, only as the Lord guides. And if there's ever something you'd like us to explore, or have questions or comments that you'd like to share, please feel free to check-in with us at thewholetruth@cogic.org.

Life and favor to you and yours!

By His Grace,

April E. Quillen

Good News *for*God's People



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# The Whole Truth | COMING SOON

# INTRODUCING YOUTH NEED ONLY A WORD



"For he says, 'In the time of my favor I heard you, and in the day of salvation I helped you.' I tell you, now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation."

II Corinthians 6:2 NIV

The Whole Truth introduces "Youth N.O.W," a section of TWT dedicated entirely to the youth of the Church Of God in Christ. In this section, we will address topics that we believe to be fresh on the hearts and minds of our youth and relevant to what young Christians face, as they strive to live holy and stand for righteousness in this present age.

"Youth N.O.W" will be capably steered by TWT writer Ms. Daniele Randolph, an Arizona native who is spiritually bold with the zeal and fervor for Christ that every young person needs to combat the wiles of the technologically-advanced, liberal-thinking society on which their generation is founded. To incite the minds of our youth, Daniele is planning to delve into some of the following subjects, just to name a few:

- · Peer Pressure How to remain encouraged when you're the only one going to church.
- Is Church Necessary?
- The Social Media Craze Appropriate social media behavior

- Overcoming the Pressure to Marry Before Your
- How to Financially Survive Student Loans
- Worldly Influence vs. The Call to the Kingdom
- Devotion Fostering a healthy relationship with God outside of church

We are thoroughly excited to provide the "Youth N.O.W" segment; look for it in all future issues of The Whole Truth. It is our sincerer prayer that whatever is written through these pages will motivate youth who are already rooted in Christ and prick the hearts of those who have yet to discover what the journey is all about.

And please, if there are subjects that you'd like to see addressed in the "Youth N.O.W" section, feel free to let us know at thewholetruth@cogic.org. TWT

# Where They Lead We Will FOLLOW:

By David George Newsome

Drucker,
Maxwell,
Welch, Covey...
a Google® query
of "experts on
leadership" will
undoubtedly
return these
names and more.

All of these men have accomplished careers as speakers and writers on the subject of leadership.

Blake, Brooks, Macklin, Winbush, McKinney, Wells, Daniels, White, Sheard, Porter, Thomas, Wooten...yes, the Church Of God In Christ is blessed to have our own resident experts on leadership. They are the highly respected

men who comprise the Presidium or General Board of our great church. Collectively, they provide leadership and guidance to the 12,000 churches and more than 6.5 million members of the largest African-American Pentecostal denomination in the U.S., and the fourth largest Protestant organization in the world. While this is certainly a monumental task, God has blessed us with an incredible group of men who are uniquely equipped by Him to lead us into the future with resurrection power. Of course they follow a long line of prestigious leaders, beginning with our sainted senior bishop and chief apostle, Bishop Charles Harrison Mason. Bishops Jones, J.O. Patterson, Ford, Owens, G.E. Patterson and now Bishop Charles Edward Blake, Sr. have led our church for 106 years.

"I see you in the future and you look much better than you look right now!" There likely is not a single COGIC member

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"No leader can do everything. He has to empower people to do the work, and then allow them to do the work that has been assigned.

unable to name the individual who makes this statement. Of course it is our illustrious leader, the Most Reverend Charles Edward Blake, Sr., the seventh leader in succession. Bishop Blake is quick to emphasize to those desiring to be leaders that they must first lead where they want others to follow. "I decided early in my pastorate that if I wanted West Angeles to be a worshipping church, I had to

# The General Board Talks TEADERSHIP



ead

to

be a worshipping pastor." That he is...a worshipper. Sunday after Sunday, Bishop Blake can be observed standing and worshipping during praise & worship and when the choir is giving God praise. "Never should you ask people to go or do something that you will not or cannot be seen doing yourself," Bishop continued. "Vision is certainly necessary to the success of any organization, but people are going to see what

the leader is doing to determine what they are going to do!"

Bishop Blake has provided tremendous leadership since becoming our presiding bishop and chief apostle in 2007. Two of our church's largest capital campaigns have been initiated by Bishop Blake. The first renovated the Lee Building on our headquarters campus in Memphis (Bishop Blake gave the first \$100,000). The second is the current campaign to renovate the Leila Mason Building and other structures on the campus (again, Bishop Blake has given \$100,000 to support this campaign). I was present at one of Bishop Blake's leadership sessions one Saturday during Convocation. The atmosphere was so charged after the announcement of Bishop Blake's commitment that bishops and other leaders who were present pledged more than a half million dollars to support the renovation projects at headquarters.

During last year's election, General Board Member Emeritus, Bishop J. Neaul Haynes had this to say about Bishop Blake: "He

is leading our church in a way that will make the future of the Church Of God In Christ strong." Bishop J. Drew Sheard added, "I made it a point to visit Bishop Blake's church and observed all that he did. I came back and changed everything that I was doing at my home church, and my church grew rapidly." Bishop Blake is quick to point out that a good leader empowers others. He credits the chief operating officers of West Angeles, Save Africa's Children and the Church Of God In Christ with enabling him to carry out his tremendous responsibilities. "No leader can do everything. He has to empower people to do the work, and then allow them to do the work that has been assigned. Leaders have to trust those that they empower."

TWT HAD THE OPPORTU-NITY TO TALK WITH MORE OF OUR RESIDENT EXPERTS ON LEADERSHIP AND GOT A GLIMPSE INTO WHAT HAS MADE THEM SUCCESSFUL:

# **Bishop Phillip Aquila Brooks**

Bishop Brooks says that there are several characteristics every



leader should possess: being a role model, being an example, a concern for those being led, being a good com-

municator, being a talent scout, being a vision-caster, and a motivator, inspiring a collaborative team effort. He was most influenced by the late former Presiding Bishop J.O. Patterson. "He discovered my gifts and encouraged me to strive for excellence." Bishop Brooks has a long list of things that he does to continue his growth and development, including: attending leadership workshops and seminars; studying; keeping abreast of current events and trends locally, nationally and internationally; having a broad reading discipline; and utilizing the latest technology. When given the opportunity, Bishop Brooks likes to ask other leaders how much solitary time they have for reflection.

# Bishop Jerry Wayne Macklin

Bishop Macklin begins by saying that vision is the one charac-



teristic every leader should possess. Leaders need "the ability to see what is not seen and describe to those who

follow, in vivid terms and images, a preferred future they are willing to work to achieve." Bishop Macklin credits his father, Supt. Albert C. Macklin, as one person who influenced him. "I consistently witnessed my father remain vigilant and focused on his calling in life. Despite numerous setbacks, obstacles and trials, he moved forward with determined motion. He taught me that every challenge was an opportunity to display the power of God in the world." When asked what he does to keep himself growing and developed, Bishop Macklin replied, "Spending time with God daily in prayer and scripture so that I can remain sensitive to His will for my life and hear his voice clearly." Further, Bishop Macklin says it is important to "surround myself with leaders who challenge and stretch me beyond my abilities and successes of yesterday." His favorite topic to discuss with other leaders is, "What visions they have, and more importantly, what vision has them!"

# **Bishop Roy LH Winbush**

Bishop Winbush has been a leader within the Church Of God In Christ for many years. Anyone who has read the Sunday School quarterlies



in the last decade has been blessed by the work of Bishop Winbush and his wife, Lady Mae C. Winbush.

For years, he also led the COGIC Publishing House. "In order to be a leader, one has to understand and appreciate the art of following. You cannot lead if you do not have a desire and ability to follow leaders. I have always prided myself on being someone who would follow leadership. I made myself available and that is how my leadership opportunities presented themselves." Bishop Winbush credits Bishop J.O. Patterson and other leaders for showing him how to lead the people of God. He encourages young people to do the same. "We have tremendous leaders who are living right before us. Watch and learn. Further, ask them questions. A good leader will always have time for young people."

# Bishop George Dallas McKinney

This senior statesman recently celebrated 50 years in pastoral ministry. Bishop McKinney is definitely a



successful leader who has the respect and admiration of many people from many walks of life. "One characteristic that I

believe every leader should possess is unshakable faith in God and intimacy with God through prayer and consecration." He credits his father, George D. McKinney, Sr., with influencing him to be successful and striving to be all that he could be. "[My father] did not have the advantage of formal education, but he had a thirst for learning and was engaged in serious study of the Word of God until his death at 79." He says that his growth as a leader is dependent upon a spiritual discipline of prayer, the study of the Bible and other good books. Developing friendships with other servant leaders is also important for personal growth and development.

# Bishop Nathaniel Wyoming Wells, Jr.

Known for his "Total Man" approach to ministry, Bishop Wells has been a leader in both the secular



and spiritual arenas. With more than 20 multi-family housing complexes, a successful career as an insurance ex-

ecutive, pastoral and community leadership in two communities simultaneously, and a very active role as husband and father, he has had his fair share of success. However, he is quick to point out, "A leader must be a man of integrity; one that his people can trust and believe." He continued to qualify his response with the fact that a leader is a motivator of those he leads and a developer of men, developing independent thinkers and encouraging his people to think outside of the box. His father, Bishop Nathaniel "Poppa" Wells, Sr., was his mentor, simply by living the same life at home and at church. "He had great compassion for God and truly walked in faith; he loved his family and church. He taught me to love the people that I serve with, the same love that I have for my biological family." Bishops L.H. Ford, F.D. Washington and J.O. Patterson were great influences as well. When it comes to what he does to grow and develop personally, Bishop Wells said, "There is an old saying that when you are ripe you rot but when you are green you grow! I continue to seek God through consecration and prayer, studying and education, fraternizing and fellowshipping with those that I feel can influence my life and develop and upgrade my mindset." As it relates to what he would like to ask other leaders, "I really want to know how and what they did to accomplish the goals and successes that God has given them."

# **Bishop Sedgwick Daniels**

One visit to Milwaukee and the various facilities of the Holy Redeemer Institutional Church Of



God In Christ and it becomes obvious that good leadership is present in the life and work of the church. Four schools, a

conference center, a new geriatric center, and more, have all come into being because of the leadership of Bishop Sedgwick Daniels. "Integrity is the most important characteristic that a leader can possess. Can people trust that you will be a man (or woman) of your word?" Bishop Daniels was most influenced by his grandfather, the late Reverend Dr. G.T. Townsel, for "his Christian example and philosophy of life that it can be done." He consistently seeks opportunities to grow professionally and spiritually. He likes to ask other leaders about their visions and their divine assignments. The legacy that the leader will impart is also important for Bishop Daniels to know.



# **Bishop Frank Otha White**

From National Financial Secretary to General Board Member,



Bishop White has walked in his leadership abilities within the Church Of God In Christ. "Influence... this is the engine – the

transmission, actually – of true leadership. Clearly, if a leader is unable to accomplish influence in the lives of those whom they lead, how shall they expect to reach a successful destination?" The one person that he credits with having an influence upon his life would be New York state bishop, the late Bishop O.M. Kelly. "His leadership impacted my life from early childhood until well into my pastoral career." Bishop White continued to say, "Strikingly similar to our own Presiding Bishop Charles Edward Blake, he was able to sharply discern the seeds of potential greatness and promise. I am forever grateful for his steady-handed guidance that has shaped, molded and laid the groundwork for my future in our great church." Bishop White indicates that he reassesses his three central touchstones: passion, purpose and power. "As long as I am passionate about my purpose, my results will always be powerful." The one question he likes to ask other leaders, "How can I help you?"

# Bishop J. Drew Sheard

We have all witnessed the relatively quick progression of the



leadership of Bishop J. Drew Sheard. Within two years, he has gone from the jurisdictional prelate of Michigan North Central

to a member of the General Board. He was also very successful as the International Youth President and AIM Chairman. "My first response is probably a given," when asked about the one characteristic that every leader should possess, "But I think it must be articulated. Every leader must first be able to lead. Unless people are following you, you are just taking a walk. A leader must be able to communicate the vision as well." Bishop Sheard found it difficult to answer TWT's question about the influences in his life. He named two individuals: Bishop Chandler David Owens and Bishop Charles Edward Blake (he was very complimentary of a whole list of men, including his father Bishop John Henry Sheard). "Bishop Owens influenced me as a very young man with his silver tongue and exquisite preaching. I shall never forget the statement he made to me when I was International Youth President. He told me, "You have to be big enough to let somebody else be big." Bishop Blake impacted my pastoral ministry. I observed his styles and his administrative ability and restructured my church and my pastoral ministry took off!" Constant communication with God to ensure that he does not disappoint Him is important for Bishop Sheard's growth and development. He followed by saying, "I am constantly talking to other successful leaders and reading different materials on leadership." He asks other pastors, "How is your church doing and what did you preach on Sunday?"

# Bishop Brandon B. Porter

Youth president, media professional, social media king and multi-site church ministry are just a



few items on the long and varied list of accomplishments of Bishop Porter. He agrees with Bishop Wells that integrity is

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most important for any leader. "It is an absolute must in order to be successful." The one influence that Bishop Porter named will probably not be a surprise to anyone that knows him. "Well that's an easy one...my father (Bishop W.L. Porter) has had the greatest impact on my life. He not only taught me, but he also gave me an example of true commitment to success!" Bishop Porter indicated that he keeps pushing himself in order to grow. "I am always thankful for where God has me, but never satisfied with where I have me." He says that he is observant when it comes to other leaders. "Leadership is a behavior, not a conversation."

# **Bishop Ted Thomas**

As the seventh leader in succession of the historic First Jurisdiction of Virginia, former Judiciary



Board member, secretary of the Board of Bishops for five consecutive terms, a pastor for more than 65 years and husband for

more than 55 years, Bishop Thomas knows a little bit about leadership. "A determined commitment to holiness and the Word are the most important characteristics that a leader can possess." This has resulted in the jurisdiction growing from 17 to 50 churches under Bishop Thomas' leadership. He could not name one person who has most influenced him, so instead named several: His Sunday School teacher, Mother Macon, for waking up his love for the Word; Bishops David C. Love, J. Howard Sherman, L.T. Walker, J.O. Patterson, Sr., and L. H. Ford also heavily influenced Bishop Thomas and his leadership style. In order to continue to grow, Bishop Thomas says that one must be committed to the reading of God's Word, holiness, a sincere desire to know God's will for our lives and a determination to do what God has ordained. Bishop Thomas likes to observe other leaders to see what God is saying and doing in their lives.

# Bishop Lawrence M. Wooten

Since the Holy Convocation has been moved to St. Louis, the



saints have been able to witness the successful ministry of Greater Williams Temple in the heart of the city, pastored

by one of the newest members of the General Board, Bishop Lawrence M. Wooten. "If I had to name the number one characteristic, I would say communications skills. The ability to communicate the vision is vitally important in the life of any organization or church. In order to be the leader of the people, you must be able to share the vision with your followers." As it relates to the person who most influenced him as a leader, Bishop Wooten is quick to announce that Bishop Columbus Williams, founder of Williams Temple, is that person. "My father died when I was 16 years old. [Bishop Williams] was my pastor, mentor and father-figure. He took me as a son and mentored me for 33 years until his transition to glory in 1979. He also encouraged and inspired me to further my education and pursue a college degree." Bishop Wooten says that he grows and develops by continually building godly leaders, developing lay leaders and focusing on leadership training. "I attend numerous conferences offered by the Church Of God In Christ. In addition, I observe and learn from our great leader, Bishop Charles Edward Blake. I read books on leadership techniques, and most importantly, I seek God in fasting and prayer for direction, wisdom and revelation." I am always asking other leaders, "What plans or ideas has God given you to help in ministry and soul winning?" Whatever the church does, it must lead to more souls being won for Christ.

These snippets from our leaders should certainly reassure all members of the Church Of God In Christ that we are indeed experiencing Jesus' power as we pursue His mission and His righteousness. With such great leaders who have been chosen by God, there should be no doubt in any mind that our future is bright!

David George Newsome is a member of the Grace For The Nations Church in Grand Rapids, Michigan (Administrative Assistant Tarence E. Lauchié, pastor) and the assistant jurisdictional secretary of the Michigan Southwest Third Jurisdiction (Bishop Samuel Duncan, Jr., prelate).





# KAREN CLARK SHEAR LINE In Chicago

By Sonya D. Bradford

# The temperature soared

well into the 90s on Monday, September 9, 2013 as fans gathered in droves outside of Chicago's newest arena, The House of Hope, to support, bear witness and show their love for the legend herself, Karen Clark Sheard. The four-time GRAMMY® Award-winner and multiple Stellar and GMA Dove Award winner was just moments away from recording her sixth project as a solo artist, and the attendees were thrilled about it. Produced by the musical mastermind himself, Donald Lawrence, who also produced Karen's highly successful first solo project, Finally Karen, this recording was billed to be a smashing success since it was first announced earlier this year.



The House of Hope is a

spacious but cozy 10,000 seat arena, and as fans poured in early to claim the best seats, episodes of BET's docu-drama series, The Sheards, aired on two jumbotron screens. Excitement and anticipation filled the air as fellow gospel music stars, some old and some new, began to appear - such as: Karew Records label-mate, Jonathan Nelson; the veteran, Ricky Dillard, Smokie Norful, DeAndre Patterson, Ted Wynn (of gospel duo Ted & Sheri), Malcolm Williams, Anthony Clark Williams (formerly known as "Tonex"), and the winners of the last three seasons of BET's Sunday Best - Tasha Page-Lockhart, Joshua Rodgers and Amber Bullock. Of course, the other three "Clark Sisters," husband Bishop J. Drew Sheard, daughter Kierra and countless other relatives were on hand to show their support as well. Karen's son, J. Drew II, was the drummer for this magical event. A large group from Karen's home church, Greater Emmanuel Institutional COGIC, made the trek from Detroit to support their darling first lady as well.

White architectural scrim canvassed the rear of the stage and a haze of purple-pinkish lights glowed against the backdrop enhancing the ambience in the room. Theatrical smoke billowed from the set as the house lights dimmed and the

unmistakable voice of Donald Lawrence narrated a quick flashback video of Karen's five previous projects on the jumbotron screens. The band piped up, the background singers, Donald Lawrence's "The Company," took their places on stage, then Donald emerged and stepped to the microphone to introduce the multi-octaveranged, self-echoing beauty herself, Karen Clark Sheard. Glowing brilliantly and wearing a gorgeous, orange and white dress and bright smile, Karen took the stage, belting out the first of 13 tracks proclaiming, "If God be for us, the who doesn't matter."

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The tracks for this recording varied in tempo, flavor and style, and the background vocals of The Company, directed by Donald Lawrence, were on-point and flawless. The band, under the musical direction of Daniel Witherspoon, was tight and on fire and kept the crowd rockin' all night long. The highlight of the evening came during the reprise of one of the songs. As Karen took a well-earned rest on vocals, Donald led The Company in a reprise of the previous song, a smooth melodic ballad sang from the perspective of a hungry soul seeking the presence of the Savior. The chorus of the song simply asked /Can anybody take me to where Jesus is, where Jesus lives?/Can anybody take me, to where Jesus is?/ To the delight of the audience, Donald called



Chicago's own Kim McFarland from her place among the background singers to sing lead vocals as The Company kept the melody flowing. Although Kim's offering was dynamic and soulful, that wasn't enough singing for the lively audience. The vibrant crowd wanted to hear more!

Chants for "The Clark Sisters" began to ring out across the arena, and within minutes, Twinkie, Dorinda and Jacky joined Karen on stage to render their own version of the ballad. Being the professionals that they all are, Donald swiftly gave them the four-part harmony and The Clark Sisters did what they've done for decades – they blew us away with their harmony and spontaneous ad-libs. The audience was revved up by now and refused to be quelled. Next, shouts for "Kierra" began to echo throughout the arena. After much persuasion and cheers from the crowd, Kierra reluctantly made her way to the stage. When she got to the microphone, she thanked everyone and said, "This is Mommy's night," and attempted to leave the stage without singing a note. At that moment, Karen switched hats and exercised her maternal authority. In obedience to her mother and giving the audience what they wanted, Kierra added her own flavor and spin to the reprise. Lastly, the crowd turned its attention to Bishop J. Drew Sheard and beckoned for him to sing, but he understandably and

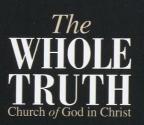
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animatedly declined! J. Drew II was safely secure at his seat on the drums behind the drum shield.

"Decreeing, declaring and rest" were the themes for this entire recording. The songs were chockfull with messages of destiny and victory with our Lord Jesus Christ being the foundation of it all. This was more than just a live recording - it was a worship experience in and of itself, complete with a hand-clappin', foot stompin' praise break and a fiery sermonette from the singer-evangelist herself, Karen Clark Sheard. Look for Karen's new project to be released in 2014 and experience firsthand what thousands experienced that night at The House of Hope in Chicago. The legacy continues... **TWT** 



Sonya D. Bradford is a member of Deliverance Center Ministries COGIC in Indian Orchard, MA (Massachusetts First). She is also a licensed evangelist and gospel announcer for 90.7FM WTCC.



# TWT Goes Live with the One and Only KAREN CLARK SHEAR D

By Sonya D. Bradford



DAYS BEFORE RECORD-ING HER NEWEST
PROJECT IN CHICAGO,
THE WHOLE TRUTH
HAD THE OPPORTUNITY
TO CHAT WITH COGIC'S
VERY OWN GOSPEL
MUSIC SUPERSTAR,
KAREN CLARK SHEARD,
ABOUT HER UPCOMING
LIVE RECORDING AND
LIFE AS A SOLO ARTIST.

DAUGHTER OF THE LATE DR. MATTIE MOSS CLARK AND WIFE OF GENERAL BOARD MEMBER BISHOP J. DREW SHEARD, KAREN CLARK SHEARD IS POISED TO TREAD EVERYWHERE THE LORD HAS ORDAINED HER STEPS TO GO.

The Whole Truth: Why did you choose the city of Chicago for your live recording this time around?

**KAREN:** For one, it's close to Detroit and I wanted my church family, Greater Emmanuel Institutional COGIC, where my husband, Bishop J. Drew Sheard is the pastor, to be there. They prayed for me to get here, so I wanted them to be a part of it. Also, Chicago has always reminded me of Detroit; it's a phenomenal city. And thirdly, we receive so much love from Chicago. They have given my family so much love going back to my mother, Dr. Mattie Moss Clark, and even my sisters and my daughter. I just wanted to love on them

and give back the love and support that they have given to me.

The Whole Truth: This recording marks your 6th solo project since branching off from your beloved sisters. What can you say about your solo career as you contrast it with the years you spent singing in a group with your sisters?

KAREN: It has been a great journey and a great experience. I was at a place where I felt that I was unable to go out on my own as a solo artist, but God said: "If you give Me a chance, I'll prove to you that I can take all of these gifts and talents that I have given to one bloodline and spread it." And He has done that with me as a solo artist even when I thought I couldn't do it myself. I've had some ups and downs and that goes along with dealing with success. I'm at a place now where the experience that I've had has taught me to move past the negativity and strongholds. This is a place where God has me and that keeps me going in my "give-up" moments. God has shown Himself to me and has just used me in many ways. I've decreased myself and I allow Him to increase [in me], so here I am. I've seen lives changed and that just motivates me to keep going.

The Whole Truth: How does it feel to be working with Donald Lawrence again? Did you all just pick up where you left off with your 3rd project, The Heavens Are Telling?

KAREN: We pretty much did...Donald has always been my "first love" regarding the music industry because he produced my first successful solo project, *Finally Karen*, and it went gold. I have always admired Donald

Lawrence for his talent and what he brought to the gospel music industry. It was always something different and he has always been a trendsetter. We had been taught through my mother, Dr. Mattie Moss Clark, that you're going out there to "attract" the sinners and you have to have a message. Donald always has a message and it's not the same old "He'll bring you out" and "Didn't He wake you up this morning?" message. It's something different that attracts the ear. Spiritually, naturally and even down to conducting business, Donald has really taught me a lot. I learned a lot from my mom when I was young, but Donald was like the "next wave." When the industry was changing he introduced me to how the business works. He contributes a lot to my success and my solo career; he has been there since day one, and here we are again. Donald's still being a trendsetter even with the time of today. He makes it easy for me, even as I get older, and he still knows how to operate when dealing with me; he just knows me.

The Whole Truth: Let's talk about your song selections. How many songs do you plan to record, and how did you go about choosing them?

**KAREN:** We plan to record approximately 12 to 13 songs. Donald brought the songs to me and we discussed where I am now in my life. I give my husband high respect because he has been like the engine in my life, spiritually and naturally, supporting me in ways and in things that I didn't even know I had in me. He pushed me to that point. Then, Donald has always been the one to usher me into the next phase spiritually,

where God wanted me to go. So, we planned these songs by looking at where I am now in my life. People are calling me like never before to preach. I've always been the one to be shy and in the background and would never talk, but my sisters told me that I'd be talking later on and here I am today. God told me I must open my mouth and speak for Him because I have a message. God has allowed me to take the messages I have written and put them into songs. We chose the songs based on what's going on in my life right now. A lot of the things I had spoken of and preached about, Donald brought them to me in a song. That just goes to show how God works! We're ministering by taking the whole package of "me" from my various viewpoints as a first lady and a mother [etcetera] and making it into this record.

The Whole Truth: I know you're a natural-born singer anointed from the womb, but how do you prepare yourself for a recording of this magnitude?

KAREN: Thank you for all of those accolades. I'm very much on my knees and staying prayerful. I'm hearing from God and getting clarity to make sure that everything is done in the order in which God wants it to go on that night. I'm praying that God would order my steps in everything we do. Even with Donald, I pray that God will make us one in the Spirit and that we will, most of all, allow God to get the glory. I'm barely turning on the TV, but I gotta have an outlet, so every now and then I'll turn it on, then I'll turn it right off and get back to where I need to be for this recording. I'm also prepping myself physically and

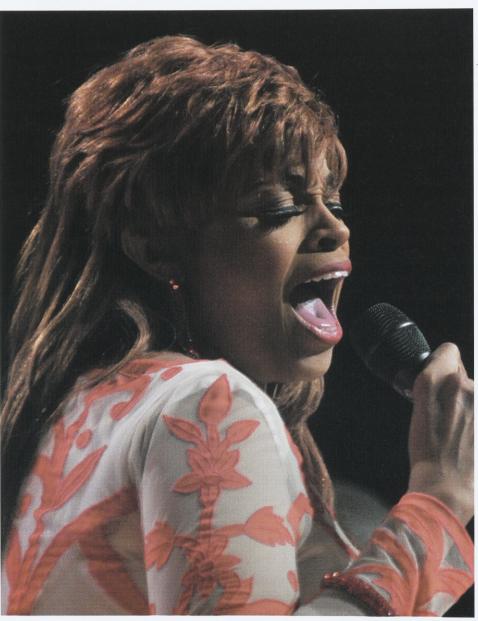
naturally so I get a lot of rest and I pace myself. I'm just doing everything I need to do and I'm being very prayerful.

The Whole Truth: What do you want the listeners to take away from this project as it ministers to them for years to come?

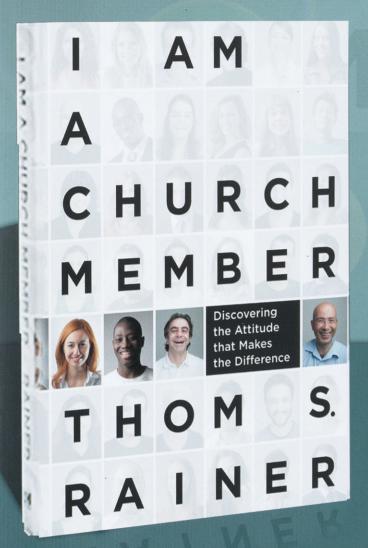
**KAREN:** I want this project to be just as impactful as my first project, *Finally Karen*. People will not put that CD on the back burner. They will not put it under and let the dust hit it. People bring that CD to my concerts today. They bring it to my church services even when I'm preaching

and they'll say: "This CD changed my life" and "This CD took me out of this situation..." and "I was about to commit suicide..." I want this project to be so impactful to people's lives until they will remember even when they get older and say: "I will never forget the messages that she brought forth that changed my life." **TWT** 

Sonya D. Bradford is a member of Deliverance Center Ministries COGIC in Indian Orchard, MA (Massachusetts First). She is also a licensed evangelist and gospel announcer for 90.7FM WTCC.



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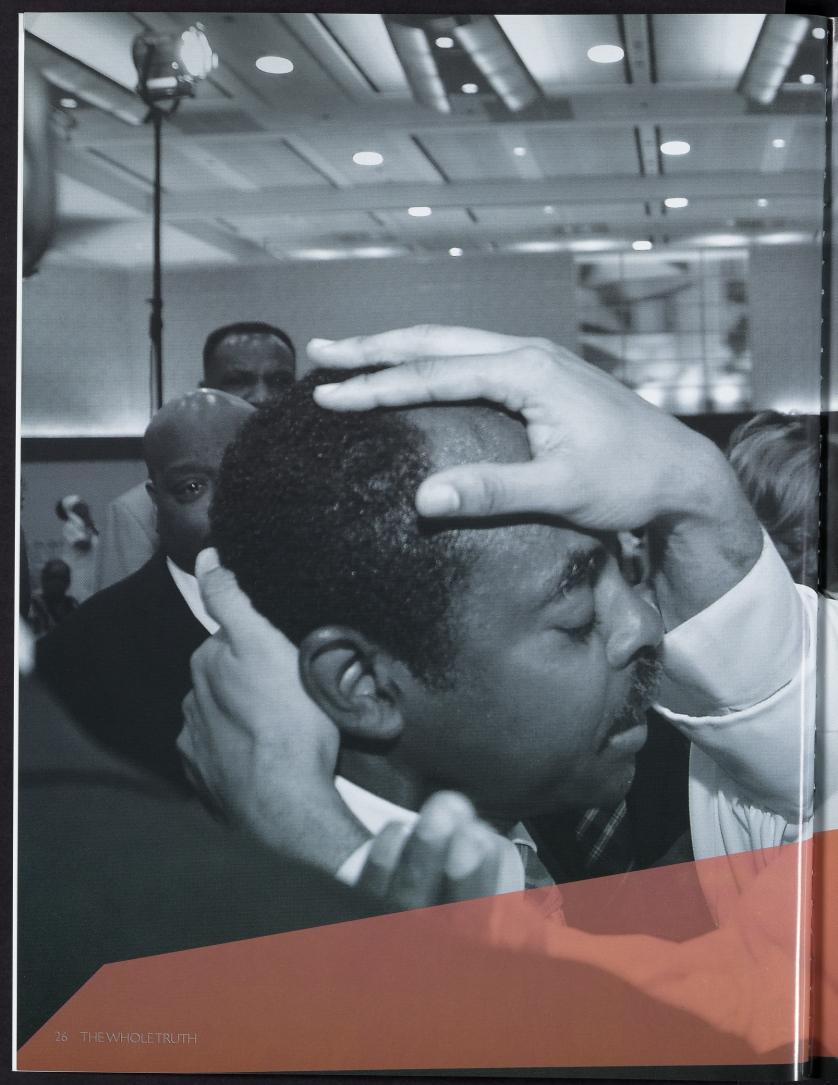
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# COGL Trended Number One Worldwide... With Alm

By Superintendent Allen T. Cork, Sr.

The AIM 2013 Convention was a phenomenal success, shattering records and catapulting COGIC to number one worldwide in social media. This was due in large part to the anointed leadership of Chairman Linwood Dillard who envisioned the triad conventions as the Christian training center of the world, not merely the third largest gathering of COGIC.



The Dream Team of the AIM Machine drew a record crowd of 30,000 to Baltimore, Maryland, July 1-5, for exalted worship, instructional praise, spiritual renewal and musical extravaganzas. The local committee, chaired by Baltimore Pastor Carl Pierce, laid the foundation for the national committee to minister unbridled, and minister they did.

A pre-AIM street evangelism activity netted 131 souls under the auspices of Bishop Bob Jackson, which set the table for what would follow. The department leaders rolled in with the precision and enthusiasm of a tightknit family who knew just what to do. Bishop Carlis Moody's testimony of his near death experience was compelling and Elect Lady Rita Womack's experience flooded



the altar with many delegates. Chairlady Joyce Rodgers electrified the hall exhorting the saints to "Shake the Devil Off." Dr. Judith McAllister brought the house to a standstill, admonishing the delegates not to ruin their lives over something that wouldn't last much more than a day. Bishop Alton Gatlin and Dr. Elijah Hankerson reenergized and inspired the troops under their command to be the frontline of the faith, and President Benjamin Stephens threw down in a didactic style that the youth could really relate to.

Chairman Dillard reminded us that a "Dirty Miracle" could make you clean inside, through a blessed process and miraculous breakthrough to a better you. And true to form, on the Fourth of July, we celebrated spiritual independence in the

convention center with Holy Ghost fireworks freeing souls from sin.

Notwithstanding, Bishop
Charles Blake graced the
church with an anointed message of hope, which springs
eternal in Christ Jesus.
Our International Music and
Youth Departments were
simply wonderful, providing
forums for all ages and youth
to minister, taking time to invest
in those who will be next. One
of the breathtaking sights was
watching the Drill, Dance and
Step Teams perform as a group
in excess of 400 youth.

Innovatively, Chairman Dillard also unveiled the COGIC AIM APP—placing the registration, map locations, itinerary, speakers, and instant updates before, during and after the convention in the palm of one's hand—through personal iPhones and androids.









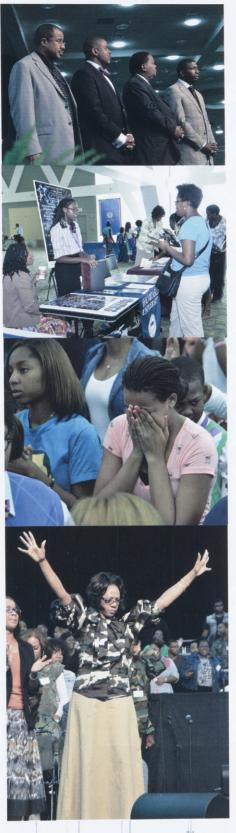














THAT NOVELTY WAS NOT WASTED ON THE YOUTH, WHO **FOLLOWED US ON** TWITTER, INSTA-**GRAM AND SOCIAL-**CAM. WHILE LIKING US ON FACEBOOK AND SUBSCRIBING ON YOUTUBE. WE TRENDED #1. #2 AND **#3 ON SOCIALCAM** AND MADE OVER 250,000 IMPRES-SIONS THROUGH **FACEBOOK AND** TWITTER.

Several media outlets signed on, from Clear Channel and iHeartRadio to CBS TV-News and the Afro-American newspapers. AIM TV set all-time records, debuting in 80% of the registered hotels and increased from 5 to 15 daily hits, including pre-show, main and post show appearances. Because of AIM TV, many souls were brought to Christ and the convention. An estimated five million viewers watched the convention on video stream. AIM 2013 also appeared on the Impact Network which has a viewership of 2.3 million people. **TWT** 

Supt. Allen T. Cork, Sr. is the pastor and founder of the Kent Island New Beginnings COGIC in Grasonville, MD. He was appointed National Marketing Director for the AIM Executive Committee in April of 2013.

By Elder Rick D. Cunningham

"The Lord is in his holy temple, the Lord's throne is in heaven: his eyes behold, his eyelids try, the children of men."

Psalm 11:4

"Justice is blind" is a phrase used to describe a system of judging that is applied equally among all people. It implies that your race, religion, financial status, gender or political persuasion is irrelevant to the equal application of legal justice. You can expect that you will be treated fairly and that the jury or judge, without bias, will consider the evidence presented. Well, hold on... because realistically, this is simply not so. Justice being blind is a good concept, but that's just what it is, a concept. In actuality, sometimes it seems as though the saying "justice is blind" really means "justice cannot see clearly."

Over the past five decades there have been numerous criminal and civil cases with questionable outcomes that have left many wondering where accountability and fairness have gone. There is, however, a **Righteous Judge** from whom none of us can escape iustice.

There is a Righteous Judge who will not convict Jf deeds uncommitted. There is a Righteous Judge who will judge us according to the record He is keeping. "Let the people praise thee, O God; let all the people praise thee. O let the nations be glad and sing for joy: for thou shalt judge the people righteously, and govern the nations upon earth" (Psalm 67:3-4 KJV).

The only evidence that God will consider is described in Revelation 20:12 where it is stated, "And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works."

Our current system of justice is the only one we have to work with; it may work in your favor or it may not. A realist understands that considerations beyond evidence may factor into the outcome of issues of legalities and fairness. Be assured, however, that God is no respecter of persons. When responding to the testimony of Cornelius, the apostle named Peter said, "Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted

with him" (Acts 10:34-35 KJV).

It can be disheartening to see those who appear obviously guilty seemingly get away with doing wrong. It may seem unfair that you as a Christian are struggling at every turn while the ungodly flourish. Just remember that God sees what you see and a lot more. None of the details escape God.

# "Fret not thyself because of evil

doers, neither be thou envious against the workers of iniquity. For they shall soon be cut down like the grass, and wither as the green herb. Trust in the Lord, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed" (Psalm 37:1-3 KJV). We will all reap what we sow. God has the final say in all matters.

If you read the 11th chapter of the book of Hebrews, you will find that a lot of Christians who faithfully followed Jesus were treated unjustly and harshly. You will also find that they maintained their focus and trust in God and His Son, Jesus. They looked beyond what was going on around them and what was happening to them. Hebrews 11:36-40 states, "And others had trial of cruel mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment: They were

stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented; (Of whom the world was not worthy:) they wandered in deserts, and in mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise: God having provided some better things for us, that they without us should not be made perfect."

We cannot allow ourselves to be discouraged by the rulings of those who hold the decisions about how justice is administered. The important thing for us to do is to trust God to do what only He can do. Only God can issue absolute fair and impartial justice one hundred percent of the time.

Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: "Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil" (Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 KJV). **TWT** 

Elder Rick Cunningham is the author of "Making Choices In Christ: Moving Beyond Self Destructive Choices And Behavior" and a member of the Southside Church of God in Christ in Jacksonville, FL.



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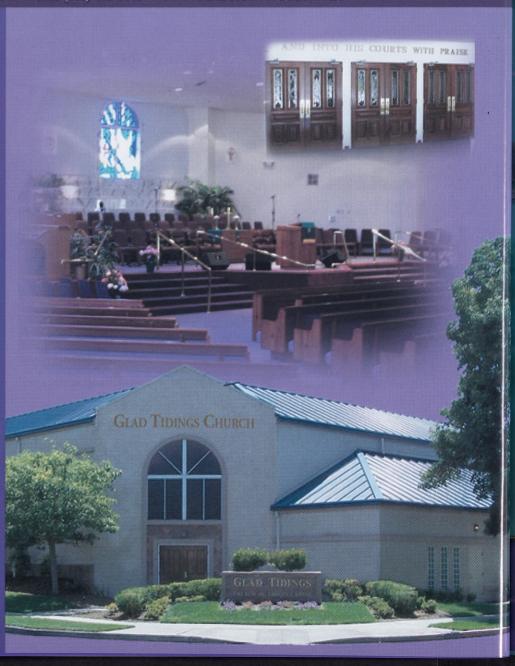
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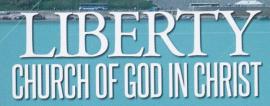




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HIGHLIGHT of EVANGELIST

# ROGSES SERVINGENTE SERVINGENT SER

By Evangelist DeLisa Reed

She is the model woman of excellence whose titles, talents and gifts are numerous. A world-renowned international evangelist, she is an author, speaker, conference leader and the founder and CEO of Primary Purpose Ministry, Inc. So, how does one encapsulate the awesomeness of such a powerful and celebrated woman who ministers life across this country?

Very simply... she is...

FAITHFUL, CHOSEN and ANOINTED!

Born and raised in Gladewater, TX, Evangelist Joyce L. Timmons Rodgers is a third generation daughter of the Church of God In Christ. She is well-acquainted with humble beginnings and experienced the supernatural workings of God early in her life. As she recalls her childhood she

states, "I received the baptism of the Holy Ghost at an early age and I remember it being a phenomenal spiritual awakening. I spoke in tongues as the Spirit gave utterance and I especially embraced the moment when I got off the floor and the older Saints affirmed, 'This time you've got it!'"

Interestingly, it was her grandmother's prayers and words of prophesy that have permitted her to walk in the vocation by which she is called and in which the church has acknowledged. Evangelist Rodgers' grandmother spoke ministry into the life of her granddaughter by stating to her through the power of the Holy Ghost, with all spiritual authority: "YES! You will be a missionary, an evangelist, a God-fearing leader, a trendsetter, a trailblazer

and a scholar. You will serve as a human clasp to connect one generation to the other."

"These were the words of prophecy spoken over my life by my grandmother and my mother" says Evangelist Rodgers, "And I am witnessing the manifestation day by day."

As prophecy has become evident, Evangelist Rodgers is a woman of abundant talent, demonstrating extraordinary leadership skills within the Church Of God In Christ. While remaining faithful to her home congregation, she used her skills and ability to organize and galvanize groups of young people. As former chairlady of the Texas Northeast 1st Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction (TNE #1) Youth Department, under the illustrious leadership of Jurisdictional Prelate, Bishop J. Neaul Haynes,



Evangelist Rodgers established the first TNE #1 jurisdictional youth church, youth choir, youth praise dance team and youth vacation Bible school. In addition to the aforementioned segments of the department, Evangelist Rodgers successfully formulated relevant youth classroom curriculum for the spiritual and social needs of local, district and jurisdictional youth departments.

As a younger lady, before ever achieving national notoriety, she was mesmerized by the number of young people who flooded the altar during the very first COGIC International Auxiliary in Ministry (AIM) summer convention she attended. Evangelist Rodgers took the initiative to work the

"YES! You will be a missionary, an evangelist, a God-fearing leader, a trendsetter, a trailblazer and a scholar. You will serve as a human clasp to connect one generation to the other."

altar, and youth altar ministry became her primary focus. "I was extremely excited about altar work. I personally embraced altar ministry - it was a ministry that portrayed the essence of my spirit, as I am a prayer warrior. Therefore, I prayed and interceded on behalf of the souls that heeded the call to discipleship. Through the power of the Holy Ghost, ministry was tailored to the depths of hurting young people, imparting words of life, wisdom and liberty." This experience had an incredible impact on her life and began to form the agenda that was the tipping point to her ministry. "I was awe-struck by how God transformed lives of the myriad of youth who were present at the place of deliverance - the altar. Yes, the altar. It was my driving motivation that, in retrospect, became my open door to service in the International Youth Department."

Evangelist Rodgers has served as the International Youth Department Chairlady of the Church Of God in Christ since 1999 under three Presiding Bishops – the late Bishop Chandler David Owens, the late Bishop G.E. Patterson, and the current Presiding Bishop Charles E. Blake, Sr. – as well as six different youth department presidents, including the current president, Pastor Benjamin Stephens III. She is the fourth chairlady appointed to this esteemed position. Having been presented with challenges to be innovative, ingenious and visionary in developing a viable and efficacious youth depart-



purposed destinies. Strongly rooted in the Word of God, Evangelist Rodgers is always reminded of the scripture found in I Timothy 1:12, "And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry."

Evangelist Rodgers is loved by many in this country and abroad. She is one of the most down-to-earth persons one could ever meet. The

## "...Iama prayer warrior."

ment, Evangelist Rodgers has implemented new strategies and programs relevant for meeting the needs of today's youth. Each year she has been in office has been filled with synergy, excitement and energy as she has worked to structure the department into a successful mechanism within the church for youth and youth workers alike.

Evangelist Rodgers has been gifted with a unique ability for not only seeing a need but creating means by which those needs are effectively met. As a result, Primary Purpose Ministry, Inc. was established. As founder and CEO, Evangelist Rodgers has developed this organization into a powerfully successful life-changing ministry that reaches beyond beliefs, ethnicities, religious persuasions and cultural restrictions to release people into their

question was asked as to how she would like people to remember her. She stated, "I want people to remember that I am authentic in everything I do. Be it family, friends, church, finance, partnerships, whatever - I keep it 100...always." And this she does quite well. As a very passionate woman of God, this is the heartbeat of her platform in ministry. She pours herself untiringly into ministering and imparting the Word of God in a way that causes people, young and old, to respond and surrender under the power of the Holy Ghost. As a result, she has been distinguished as one of the most prominent voices of this generation. She is a beacon of hope enriching people of all ages, genders and statuses, and encouraging life-change in those who would have otherwise given up.

Joyce Rodgers

#### Ministries That Evangelist Rodgers Has Implemented Within The Church Of God In Christ:

- Holy Convocation Youth Church
- Young Women of Excellence
- Can You Hear Me Now?
- Youth Department Presidents Wives
- Created to Praise
- Sister to Sister
- Women in Ministry

#### Books/Manuals Evangelist Rodgers Has Authored:

- Fatal Distractions
- Rejoyce 31-day Devotional
- 1st International Youth Department Chairladies Manual
- Ist Young Women in Ministry Manual

#### **Interesting Tidbits about Evangelist Rodgers:**

Birthday: November 13th

Favorite Scripture: Philippians 4:13

Favorite foods: Purple hull peas, breakfast foods and turkey burgers

Favorite song: "To God be the Glory" by Andrae Crouch

Favorite sport: Swimming

**Favorite Color:** Between sky blue and tiffany blue.

Favorite designer: "I don't have one. I'm not into fashion like that."

Least favorite thing to do: Shop

Favorite cartoon: Roadrunner and The Jetsons – "George Jetson was ahead of his time!"

Favorite flower: Calla lily

**Most embarrassing moment:** "I was preaching and my slip fell down. However, I used that moment to illustrate how God wants you to see how to step out of your stuff into a blessing!"

Country she would like to visit: Paris, France

**Greatest fear:** "Not pleasing God!"

**Greatest strength:** "Resiliency – the ability to bounce right back!"

What annoys you the most?: "Nothing because of my inner peace."

Three guilty pleasures: "STARBUCKS! STARBUCKS!"

Sunrise or sunset?: "Sunrise because I'm inspired by natural light."

Glass half-full or half-empty?: "Half-full because I'm optimistic and see the positivity in all things."

The three most important things to you in ministry: "My God, my family and my purpose."

**First thought waking up:** "THANKYOU JESUS! And the second thought is where am I, what hotel am I in, and in which city have I arrived; of course, due to extensive traveling." (smile)

Where do you see yourself in 10 years?: "I see myself as the founder/owner of the Primary Purpose Transition Center and also as founder and coordinator of the Women in Ministry Training Center." TWT

Dee, a 26-year veteran public school educator, is a member of Cathedral of Faith COGIC in Euless, TX under the leadership of Superintendent J.E. Hornsby & First Lady Janis Hornsby. She is a member of Texas Northeast First Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction which is led by the Honorable Bishop J. Neaul Haynes, Prelate & General Board Member, and Mother Pia Haynes-Williams, Supervisor of Women.

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#### **EDUCATION:**

- Juris Doctorate University of Kansas Law School Lawrence, Kansas
- Bachelor of Arts, Rust College Holly Springs, MS
- Primary and Secondary: Lexington School Systems, Lexington, MS Maben School Systems, Maben, MS



DISCLAIMER: The Whole Truth does not endorse or recommend any judiciary

## COGIC Social Media on Facebook

By Robert Day



THE SOCIAL MEDIA CRAZE HAS TAKEN THE WORLD BY STORM! MANY PRIVATE AND PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING, CORPORATIONS, SMALL BUSINESSES AND NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS, INCLUDING CHURCHES, ONCE THOUGHT THAT A WEBSITE AND A BUSINESS CARD WERE ENOUGH FOR ADVERTISING AND MARKETING. HOWEVER, WITH THE CURRENT SOCIAL MEDIA PHENOMENON, A STATIC WEBSITE SEEMS A LITTLE ARCHAIC ALONGSIDE THIS NEW GENERATION OF E-MEDIA CONSUMERS.

This type of mass media has allowed mutual interaction between parties, whether of a business or personal nature. Reunions have been planned for graduating classes and families, relationships have been restored between long-lost family members and friends, and pictures have been obtained from elderly relatives then exchanged with people who, in the past, could not pry certain photos from the hands of their family members.

Social media's technology can also reach large amounts of people within a few seconds, up to a couple of minutes. Major news outlets and local news stations even use social media to get stories out nowadays, with some reputable, real-time, on-the-ground sources. Therefore, the validity of many social media postings is becoming even more reliable. Gone are the days of receiving a post only filled with gossip, misinterpretations, and innuendos about someone or something. People have realized the value of this techno-tool and are taking advantage of its usage to communicate information about their companies, families, organizations and beyond.

And of course, information is no longer kept in an organization's file drawer. The material posted is sometimes jointly shared with the company that stores the electronic info and sometimes the company has proprietary ownership of such data. Thus, the implications of the content of the information becomes of greater magnitude as it is perpetually stored. This is because once the information is dispersed, it's saved indefinitely with web-hosting software or server management service platforms.

Not surprisingly, many churches are not only seeing social media as a way to publicize their local ministries, but also as an opportunity to advance the Kingdom of God to all ends of the earth! This is a way of seeing the promise fulfilled that Jesus' return will come when the mission is met of every nation in the world hearing the Gospel of Jesus Christ and when the Father says the time has come.

There are so many churches that have social media pages on the internet, with some being officially endorsed by their organization's leadership while others are not. Some are personal ventures by Christians in touch with today's technology who just want the opportunity to share and show how much they believe in the mission of their church. Usually, these independent pages are not viewed negatively by churches, but as free advertisement for the local church body. And since many senior pastors are playing catch-up with social media, they don't mind the exposure, when done decently and in order. However, since it is a personally posted page referencing the spiritual organization in which one belongs, certain care must be taken so as not to misrepresent or contradict the tenets of the faith or doctrine of the church.

With that in mind, the following are some COGIC-specific Facebook™ pages that some of our members have posted:

group posts advertisements about jobs available around the country for educators, as well as announcements about events to attend that will provide spiritual development, both personally and professionally. On this page you can expect to find serious theological education needed from some serious spiritual educators.

#### I Love The COGIC Church

-There are over 1400+ members who follow this page. The page owner is about doing God's work, bringing people together and staying in faith with the Lord.

mainly consists of general socializing through posting, responding to posts and updating posts of the day. There is more specific information posted about announcements, advertisements and upcoming events, such as AIM and getting a general feel about who will be in attendance. The youth definitely have this page on lock!

The COGIC Club – Currently 175 members strong, this group's main motto is COGIC People on COGIC Issues. Check out this group today!

Family & Friends of COGIC, First Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction of Western Pennsylvania, COGIC 4 Life, COGIC Botswana, and COGIC Divas (sporting COGIC's finest headwear) are just a few other pages on Facebook™ showcasing what local COGIC churches and jurisdictions are doing around the nation.

Search these and other COGIC pages, then share your group with some of the groups listed above to see what different parts of the church body are doing in their respective geographical areas. **TWT** 

Robert Anthony Day, Sr. is a 26-year military veteran who attends the Gospel Service at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst in Wrightstown, New Jersey, where he serves as the Associate Pastor to the military chaplains. His home church is Cornerstone COGIC in Pittsburgh, PA.

# We've heard the statistics. We've seen the decumentaries. We've seen the

We've heard the statistics. We've seen the documentaries. We've watched the news. And we know facts don't lie when it comes to African American males. Think it's not a Christian issue? THINK AGAIN!

By Missionary Chareá Batiste

The plight of our black males is so bad, in fact, that Ebony magazine did a five-part series entitled "Saving Our Sons." To recap, the magazine reported various facts, such as African American boys doing poorly in school, being over-whelmingly labeled as delinquent kids, being seen as thugs, dying in grave numbers due to gun violence and being raised in single parent homes with no father figure present. While reading the statistics, I couldn't help but feel that we as a church body need to do something.

an example of what a man should be and demonstrating how to take care of your family. He taught me what work and worship are.

Pastor Benjamin Stephens: I had great parents and I did have my father in my life, even though my parents were divorced during my adolescent years. I had a wonderful church at West Angeles [in Los Angeles, California]. My mentor was Presiding Bishop Charles E. Blake. I had good youth leaders, a great church, and a sanctified mother who raised us up in holiness. Falling in love with football and accepting my call to preach changed my life for the better.

**TWT:** What can the church do to help our young African American males grow up and become successful?

### Saving Our Young African American Males

Becoming educated about an issue is a start, but it's not enough. We also need to be a part of the solution. We are losing our young men to violence and prison, but the church can take a stand.

To aid in my article, I asked two great men of God, Pastor Benjamin Stephens III (COGIC International Youth Department president and pastor of Trinity Temple in Grandview, MO) and Pastor Billy Dixon, Jr. (California Northwest Jurisdiction Youth Department president and pastor of At Thy Word Ministries in Oakland, CA) to give their insight into this issue.

The Whole Truth: When you were a teenager, what or who helped you to stay on the right track to become the successful person you are today?

Pastor Billy Dixon, Jr.: I had many wonderful people that helped guide me and place me on the right track. But when I am asked this question, it returns to my mother and father. My mother - by making me attend church and living according to the Word of God. My father - by being

Pastor Billy Dixon, Jr.: In this time and era, we find that over 65% of African American children are born out of wedlock. So many of our young men do not have a man in their lives, let alone in the home. Therefore, men in the church must take on the role of father, uncle, and brother, and provide godly and positive role models for our young men. We must spend real time with them and be an open book, ready to run to them when needed. If every man in the church would take two young men under the age of nine (who don't have a positive male role model in the house) and guide them, it would change our communities.

Pastor Benjamin Stephens: The church has to present a true blueprint for how successful lives, careers and ministries are developed. Also, the church has to provide incentives for young men. In the secular world, negative incentives are given. The church must be willing to offer scholarships, internships, ministerial opportunities and competitive wages in the area of employment. This not only makes Jesus Christ attractive, but living for the Lord attractive too. We live in a world driven by money, politics and religion. The church has to meet those needs and be competitive. Just

telling people to love Jesus is not enough; we have to engage their inspiration for Christ. We tell them to get filled with the Holy Ghost but don't provide methods to see the Holy Spirit in action. We need to see the Holy Ghost in action, in addition to speaking in tongues and a having spiritual experience.

**TWT:** In your current leadership positions, how do you reach out to African American males so they can be guided on the right path?

Pastor Billy Dixon, Jr.: I meet them where they are. I never look down on them but I try to understand why they are there. Also, I spend a lot of personal time listening to them, not just buying them things. I share about personal situations that God took me through and about people that made great things out of their lives. Finally, I share what God thinks about them. This process takes time, but I find it highly effective. Furthermore, I am the community co-chair of the Ceasefire/Lifelines to Healing Campaign to help stop the shootings in Oakland. We are the voice of the community. The answer is not to put men of color in prison, but to provide them with real services and opportunities to stop the shootings. When implemented fully, Ceasefire has been known to cut shootings down by sixty percent. I got involved because of the alarming rate in which we're losing young black men in Oakland and around the country. Being the YPWW President of California Northwest (under the leadership of Bishop W.W. Hamilton) I knew that change had to start with me. In listening to the heartbreaking stories of our young men and the loss that they suffered during their short lives, the Holy Spirit began to push me to do more. I also wanted to comply with Presiding Bishop C. E. Blake's COGIC Urban Initiatives to deal with violence in our communities.

Pastor Benjamin Stephens: I plan to be reachable and touchable, seeking to engage with young men, letting them know I haven't always been perfect and I have made mistakes. People want to know that you love and care for them. Once we respectfully communicate that, then they can draw closer to us and be brought into the church. Many times in the church we make young people feel as if they are not worthy, but we can show them that we need them just as much, or more, as they

need us. Mentorship is a dual process. I pray that young men will grow in God academically, spiritually, financially, and socially, and I pray that they will be trendsetters in every field of human endeavor. I think we can see that the Church of God in Christ has produced great African American males who have been trendsetters around our world. And I refuse to lose a culture of traditions and successful leadership of men in the COGIC. COGIC has the answer to the plight of African American males.

TWT: Thank you, Pastor Benjamin Stephens and Pastor Billy Dixon, Jr.

The bottom line is there are no overnight solutions, but we can all pitch in to help our African American males succeed. The Bible says in Proverbs 22:6, "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it" (NKJV). God has entrusted us with His children, and we have a responsibility to steer them on the right path. Let's get involved in taking our African American boys off of the endangered list. **TWT** 

Missionary Chareá Batiste is a faithful member of Greater Victory Temple in Seaside, CA where her pastor is Bishop W.W. Hamilton, Jurisdictional Prelate and General Board Secretary Emeritus.



## REQUEST for PHOTOS and FOOTAGE of BISHOP C.H. MASON

Calling all COGIC historians and deeply-rooted COGIC members!

### Bishop Mason's 150th Birthday



As the Church Of God In Christ prepares for the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Bishop Charles Harrison Mason's birth, we need YOUR help to obtain photos and film footage of our beloved founder. We would like to honor the memory of our great leader by capturing his life throughout his various stages of life and ministry so that his legacy can be visually shared with all. If you have any photos or film footage that you are willing and able to share, or know of anyone else who may, please contact The Whole Truth at . . .

#### thewholetruth@cogic.org

to let us know how we can obtain these priceless Mason memorabilia.\*

We look forward to celebrating Bishop Mason's 150th birthday in grand COGIC style!

Tremendous thanks in advance!

\*Disclaimer: Materials submitted to TWT will only be returned if request has been made and return arranged prior to submission.

\*Disclaimer: Materials submitted to TWT will only be returned in request has been made uneveral managed participations and the submitted to TWT will only be returned in request has been made uneveral managed participations.

# A CRITICAL LOC

By Bishop David Hall, Sr.



LEXINGTON, MISSISSIPPI - July 18, 2013, Presiding Bishop Charles E. Blake, Sr., led a contingent of area prelates and interested saints to the hallowed grounds of Saints Academy in Lexington, Mississippi. The group endured the hot weather and a driving rainstorm to survey the grounds once operated by our venerable founder, Bishop Charles Harrison Mason and college president, Dr. Arena C. Mallory. In past years, the grounds were the location of Saints Industrial Junior College. Of late, the vast property that extends over 400 acres has experienced decline and near shut down.

# OK at the PAST











BISHOP BLAKE
WALKED THE
ENTIRE CAMPUS
THAT INCLUDED
THE LAKE AREA
AND THE CULTIVATED
LAND ON THE LOWER
PART OF THE PROPERTY.
IT WAS A WALK
THROUGH OUR HIS-

TORY with buildings bearing the names of pioneers who were benefactors to the school. During the days of segregation, the saints needed an alternative to public education. Basically, Holmes County Mississippi was home to the poorest of the poor, but in



DEBORAH MASON PATTERSON MULTI-PURPOSE HALL
SAINTS COLLEGE
LEXINGTON. MISSISSIPPI

To the glary of God and as an everlasting memorial to bake of the Most force of the Church of God in Christ Baken O T Jones 5. Second Senior Bishop: Bishop J O Patterson S. First Elected Presiding Shipping and Mather Lizie Retirator, First General Supervisor, Williams of Mather Lizie Retirator, First General Supervisor, Wilderforce of the Shipping of September in the year of our Lord one thousand, more hundred and ninely-time.

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those very buildings, leaders of our church were educated and groomed for service during those early years. Assembled in the Deborah Mason Patterson Building, the saints listened intently to the Presiding Bishop outline a needs assessment for the area. Mr. Clint Cobbins, the first elected Black mayor of Lexington, provided a background statement to the saints. Cobbins is an ordained Church Of God In Christ clergyman and believes that the church can provide needed vision and tangible support to the community of Lexington. "We have a number of empty buildings in Lexington and only one grocery store. Business and economic development are vital to the area's success," said the mayor.

The rich history of that small community of about 1,700 persons is noble and could not be uttered



without mention of what the saints have done on that campus. Bishop Blake's visit was a recognition of the principal fact that our holdings were acquired through the arduous work of committed saints. After the walk, he reconvened the group at

the O.M. Kelly Chapel and raised a direct and meaningful question: "What are we going to do with this property?"

Often, the challenge of leadership

is about vision. The individuals that assembled in Kelly Chapel were some of the Church Of God In Christ's best and brightest minds. The walkthrough provided the evidence of our struggle to maintain the property, but in a larger sense, demonstrated the need to make the property flourish. The grounds are well kept but non-usage is a detriment to the legacy provided to the church by the saints of old. In answer to the Presiding Bishop's question, the experiences of successful and articulate persons would be heard later that day and pondered for further consideration. There was no shortage of ideas but the ole saying, "The devil is in the details" rang true. Some suggested the church start a private school, while another stated that the property would best serve the church as a resort. Trustee Board Member Allean Stingley, DDS offered the Mississippi Charter School Act of 2013, House Bill 369 as a possible answer.

Before the "Think Tank" began, the committee was led by local pastor, Dr. Percy Washington on a visit to the old court house in Lexington. The place is infamous as the site where Bishop Mason was incarcerated. To stand in those small, cramped quarters was difficult.

However, in that jail cell, Bishop Mason was imprisoned for Christ's sake and the right to preach. Our modern day apostle, Charles Mason, placed his life and destiny on the line for his faith. Following the visit to the court house, Dr. Washington escorted the group to the Sweet Canaan Church Of God In Christ. The congregation is reported to be the second oldest active congregation in the brotherhood. If that fact can't be verified, one thing is true: the unique super-structure built over the



original Sweet Canaan building was a unique, classic idea. Yes, built over the entire original building is a larger building that encases Sweet Canaan. The visiting saints were amazed with the entire structure and the uniqueness of the moment.

Dr. Percy Washington and congregation rolled out southern hospitality and fed the saints a meal to remember. The food was off the charts! The visitors dignified the day with manners, smiles and healthy appetites that pleased the senior mothers

> who continued to offer dish after dish of tasty food.

As the

closed, the Presiding Bishop called the group He asked for candid elaboration on the suggestions he fielded earlier in the day. For every answer there were related problems, such as small population, little revenue, a weak tax base, laws governing church and state, etc. These issues seemed to color every possible solution with challenges. Leadership is an art form that few master; however, Presiding Bishop Blake kept digging for answers. Faced with a venerable landmark and limited resources, the Presiding Bishop wanted real reflections. Among the group were General Board members, Trustee Board members, jurisdictional prelates and highlyskilled professionals from varied disciplines. The exercise was not frustrating, but was a clarion message that nothing would be easy.

The resolve to find an answer is important to our leader. Bishop Blake asked all participants to share support, reasonable and tangible ideas for his consideration. "Gaining value from such an asset as the Lexington Campus, while serving the larger needs of the church and community, is the mandate of stewardship," commented the Presiding Bishop. The Blake administration took the dilapidated John Lee Building on the Mason Temple Campus and made it a resource for the church. This next challenge, through his visionary leadership, is at his discretion to communicate and collaborate with people of goodwill for the cause of Christ and the church. TWT

## Charles H. Mason Memorial Highway

together for a second time.

# The WHOLE TRUTH

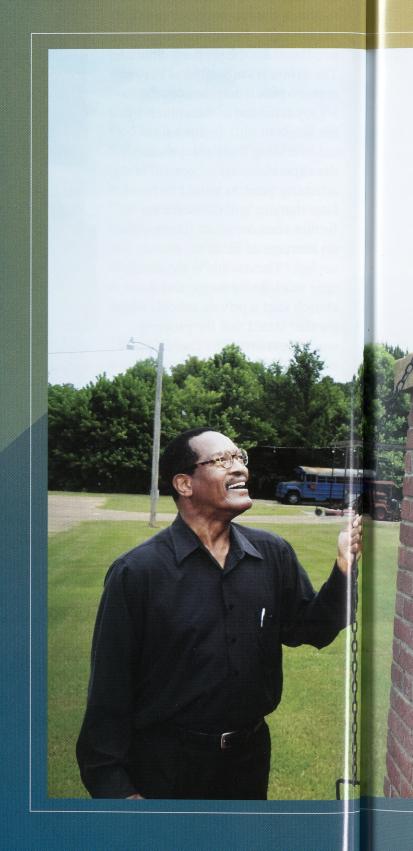
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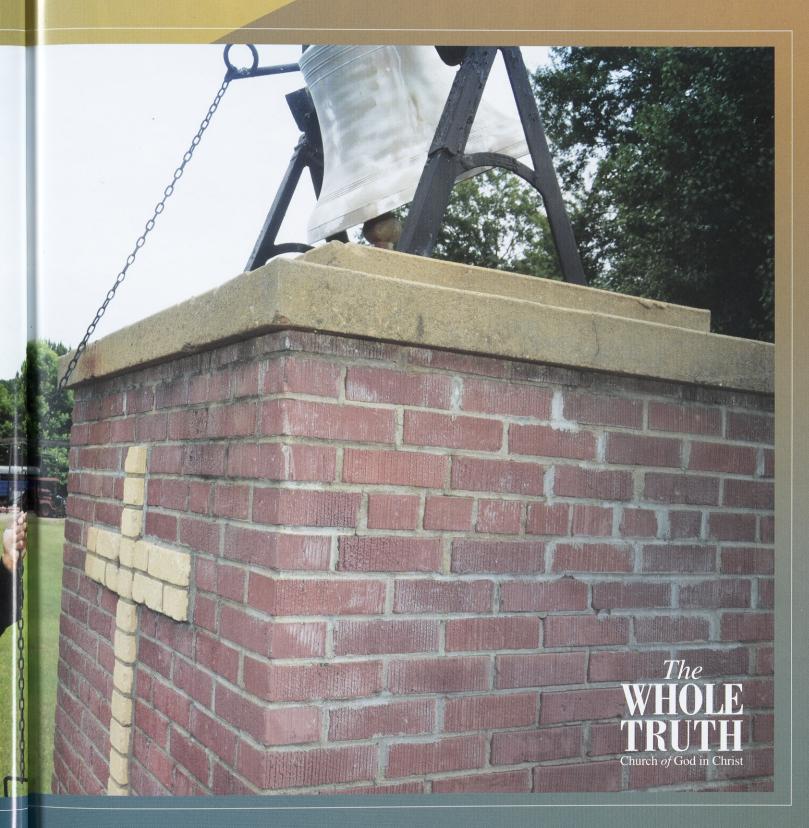
Presiding Bishop
Charles E. Blake, Sr.
ringing the bell on the
campus of the Church
of God in Christ Saints
Academy in Lexington,
Mississippi.

This bell was rang daily by school president Dr. Arenia Mallory to gather children for class.





# SHOT



# WHOLE CHUrch of God in Christ OICES OF 2013 HONOREES

#### COGIC KID (2 honorees)

Nominee:

Nominated By:

Category: Church:

Pastor:

Ta'kera Cashaw

Evangelist Missionary
Lorye Carter-Reed

COGIC Kid
Carter's Temple

Church Of God In Christ Pastor Jesse L. Carter, II



Ta'kera Cashaw is an unusual and unique 12 year-old. A member of the Youth Church program and Sunday School, she sings the hymn each third Sunday, stating that she LOVES hymns. Ta'kera, although surrounded by unsaved loved ones, family and

friends, stays grounded both academically and in the church. She is a faithful participant in all phases of the church and is maturing as a "church girl."

Nominee:

Nominated By:

Category:

Church:

Pastor:

Creshawn Byrd

Evangelist Missionary Angela Poindexter

COGIC Kid

Williams Temple

Church Of God In Christ

Pastor Cedric L. Smith

Creshawn is an extraordinary young man. I have seen many examples of his talent and have long been impressed by his diligence and work ethic. His participation at Williams Temple Church Of God In Christ is appreciated by not only me, but the entire staff. He actively participates in various activities, like the youth department, music ministry, and adjunct staff. Creshawn is part of the music ministry in Sherwood District. He has attended AIM meetings, both state and national, for the last 4 years. Creshawn has outstanding organizational skills. Many youth in the church have sought his advice and many have shared with me their appreciation of his pleasant, encouraging attitude. He is able to successfully complete multiple tasks with favorable results despite deadline pressure. Creshawn is extremely hard working when it comes to church work. Granting him this award will greatly enhance him, both as a student and as an individual. He will prove to be completely devoted to his academics and his church. I assure you that all the information given above is true.

# Inspiration

#### **GOOD SAMARITAN**

(3 honorees)

**Nominee:** 

Nominated By: Category:

Church:

Pastor:

**Yvette Simmons** 

Mrs. Robin Robinson Good Samaritan

Greater Canaan

Church Of God In Christ

Superintendent

Vernon I. Prioleau, Sr.

Yvette Simmons is a great person. She is a Junior Missionary who, whenever assigned a task, goes "above and beyond" the call of duty to get the job done well. She is always willing to help any and everybody, no matter what the task. Yvette is part of the Praise & Worship Team, and participates in the mass and youth choirs in our church. She also serves of the Pastor's Aide committee. Yvette is a great friend and sister in Christ. Yvette demonstrates a life that exemplifies the Fruit of the Spirit and is a witness for Christ. She is loyal, dedicated, obedient and supportive member of her leaders.

Nominee:

Nominated By: Category:

Church:

Philip Freeman

Mr. Gary Hemmings Good Samaritan Good News

Church Of God In Christ Pastor Samuel Canty

Pastor:

In my opinion, Bro. Philip Freeman is well deserving of the Good Samaritan award. Brother Freeman has given his time, gifts and finances to serve the church and his community. Brother Freeman has

gone above and beyond what anyone imagined.



His generosity knows no bounds, saving the church thousands of dollars by maintaining the church grounds on his own, witnessing to youth in the parking lot and in the community, serving as a deacon, motivating God's people to praise and to give to

the ministry. Brother Freeman helps the seniors get to and from church almost every week and is a true blessing to the church and the Body of Christ. He is a supporter of the local, district, and national church a great choice for the Good Samaritan award.

Nominee:

Nominated By: Category:

Church:

Pastor:

**Alexis Lipford** 

Deacon Ronald Shaw Good Samaritan Jesus Is The Way Church Of God In Christ Pastor Willie Hilliard

Alexis was in her second year of college when our pastor chose her to be the church secretary. She accepted the job and has been going full speed ahead. She also sings in the choir, leads the praise team and teaches Sunday School when asked, all while working a part-time job and maintaining a 4.0 grade average in college. Whatever the church desires for her to do, she is always willing and ready to serve with a godly heart. Being raised by a single parent for most of her life, Alexis is well-grounded and deserves this award. I pray that the light of glory shines upon her and that she receives recognition for all that she does to keep the church flow going.

#### **GRAND GUARDIAN**

(2 honorees)

#### Nominee:

Nominated By: Category: Church:

Pastor:

#### **Pastor Samuel Butler**

Ms. Jane Kohner
Grand Guardian
Love Fellowship
Church Of God In Christ
Pastor Samuel Butler



I have been at Love Fellowship for 9 years. When I first came, I had almost no real sanctification. Pastor Butler gently began the process of leading me into real sanctification. I remember trying to make him angry by cursing and just being obnoxious. Pastor just

kept saying: "When I feel upset, prayer is what I do." He never took my bait. He was the first Christian I've ever encountered who seems to truly live what he teaches. Although he is very much a leader and inspiring preacher, he is also capable of much humor and gentle playfulness. Even though I'm 60 years old, a very violent background has left many scars. Pastor's willingness to let me say something silly to which he will laugh and say "No!" is still a precious thing that I occasionally indulge in. Me: "Pastor, if I get the Board notes done on time, can I stop fasting early?" Pastor pauses, looks at me, gets a smile on his face and playfully responds: "NO!" When I have questions or problems with something that Pastor is doing, I am free to speak to him and truthfully share my confusion, or even frustration. He is never the kind of leader who says: "I told you and I want you to JUST DO IT!" My questions or issues are always taken seriously and kept confidential when necessary. Pastor Butler has shared things with me about being a pastor, and a Christian in general, that truly make me re-think what it means to be a Christian. Pastor is always so gentle and kind that it makes me want to act better when I slip-up. God has used this transform my life. I've gone from griping about not wearing pants to proudly dressing and acting like a

lady at all times, everywhere I go. I've gone from general membership to being on the trustee board, serving as secretary for the past 3 years. Finally, I've gone from the first level of commitment stating. "3 days of church is more than enough for me," to being trained in leading Praise & Worship and getting excited for the January Worker's Meeting and the June convocation. Pastor bases his life on the Word of God and on prayer. I'm following him as he follows Christ. Lastly, Pastor believes in fellowshipping. He has paid for meals for me when I couldn't afford to pay, just so I could be involved in fellowship. Now, as God enables me to have more, I am having the joy of passing the precious gift of being a help to others, assisting those who are struggling financially. I nominate Pastor Samuel Butler to be a Grand Guardian because he lives what he preaches and he teaches what the Word says. He prays and I've learned that prayer is one of my gifts. Because he got out of the way so I could really see Jesus, my entire life has been transformed.

#### Nominee:

Nominated By: Category: Church:

Pastor:

#### **Maddaline Norfleet**

Loretta Brooks
Grand Guardian
Faith Center
Church Of God In Christ
Pastor Joseph Norfleet



Having a heart for foreign missions, Lady Maddaline travels to the Caribbean, Europe, Africa, India and Asia to minister to thousands, with signs and wonders following. In 2005, she and her husband founded the "Lady Maddaline Children's Home" that provides food, shelter

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and education for approximately 80 children. She has a passion for ministry and travels throughout the United States and abroad preaching and singing under a powerful anointing of God. A woman of intense worship and prayer, she cultivates an environment for worship that is totally consuming as she ushers souls into the presence of the Father. She has effectively touched the lives of many with

her drive for holiness and carries a riveting voice that prepares the way of the Lord and calls men to repentance.

## GREAT COMMISSIONER

(3 honorees)

#### Nominee:

Nominated By: Category: Church:

Pastor:

#### Ellean Hunt

Ms. Monique Hunt Great Commissioner Greater Love Tabernacle Church Of God In Christ Pastor Steven Brian Dunlap, Sr.



Evangelist Missionary
Ellean Hunt is an individual worthy of the Great
Commissioner designation. She is a life-long
member of Greater Love
Tabernacle COGIC, and
shows her dedication by
her involvement in the
community and in the
church. In 1988, Evangelist Ellean Hunt created
a community outreach

foundation called "Misse Foundation." God also gave her a mission, and she took that mission to the church. Under the leadership of Bishop William Rimson, she created "God's Store House" and the "Community Children of God" outreach programs. The mission of "God's Store House" is to help and assist adults and children in the community who are in need of free clothing. "God's Store House" serves everyone in need - the homeless, unemployed, victims of abuse, children, elderly, dysfunctional family members, etc. In the summer of 1988, Evangelist Ellean Hunt set out to accomplish the mission by creating flyers and asking family and friends to walk the neighborhood with her to help pass them out. Evangelist Ellean Hunt also wanted to help the community children by teaching them about Jesus and love. She created "Tuesday Night Community Children of God," a Bible literacy and

life skills outreach program. The program teaches children to be successful, effective readers while learning about Jesus. It also teaches them how to love one another by reading and learning lessons from the Bible. Both outreach programs have been going strong for 25 years. While teaching the children, she realized that many of them were hungry. She therefore started feeding them after Bible study. Every Christmas, she has a big dinner for children and their parents to let them know we are here and that they are loved. Each child receives a special Christmas gift. Evangelist Ellean Hunt has dedicated not only countless hours of her time and energy but also her passion for the community and for people. It is my pleasure to nominate Evangelist Ellean Hunt for the Great Commissioner designation.

#### **Nominee:**

Nominated By: Category: Church:

Pastor:

#### **Amanda Porter**

Minister Titus Porter
Great Commissioner
Emmanuel Temple
Church Of God In Christ
Pastor Timothy L. Porter, Sr.

"GOD IS GOOD" are always the first and last words of First Lady Amanda Porter. Saved, sanctified and filled with the Holy Ghost, Evangelist Porter is a woman of statute. A South Carolina native, she is the 7th of 10 children from Rev. John & Rosa Lee Howell. Married to Pastor Timothy L. Porter for 43 years, she is never afraid to get her hands dirty. You'll always find her lending a helping hand. She conducts outreach ministry throughout the community by walking the streets, passing out tracks, and visiting nursing homes and hospitals. She also helps seniors with their shopping and chores. On May 10, 2009, our first lady was rewarded for her services in the community, by the city of Jersey City, for a work well done. She was honored at the City Line "Fabric of a Woman Dinner." Evangelist Porter received 5 Distinguished Service awards, a proclamation from Jersey City Mayor Jeremiah Healy, State Senator Sandra Cunningham, Assemblyman Harvey Smith and Hudson County Freeholder Jeffery Dublin. God gave the pastor's wife to do the work of two. She cares for the pastor and those in the pew; her loving personality keeps the pastor that her home always glistens. Evangelist Porter

is the proud mother of 2 sons (both ministers), 1 daughter (who is district Y.P.W.W. chairlady) and 2 daughters-in-law. She is also blessed with 7 loving grandchildren who call her Nana. It's evident that Evangelist Porter loves the Lord; she serves as a true example. You can find running at the park after she drops her grandchildren off at school. She says that running is her way of spending more time with the Lord, and another opportunity to pass out tracks and talk to people about the Lord. That's my mommy and I love her.

- Minister Titus John Porter

#### Nominee:

Nominated By:

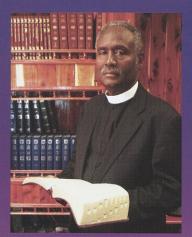
Category: Church:

Pastor:

#### James Pullings, Jr.

Evangelist Missionary
Karen Jennings
Great Commissioner
Leviticus
Church Of God In Christ
Superintendent James

Pullings, Jr.



Pastor James Pullings, Jr. has been the senior pastor of Leviticus Church Of God In Christ for the past 24 years. He is a loving, giving, diversified, God-fearing, peopleoriented man. He is also a faithful husband and father. Currently, he serves as superin-

tendent of the Burns Memorial District in the First Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction COGIC, where Bishop James Gaylord is prelate. I nominate Pastor James Pullings, Jr. for the Great Commissioner award because I feel that he exemplifies the qualities of loyalty, dedication and commitment to the service of the Lord. Many souls are hungering to witness the Spirit of Christ in leadership and have been disappointed. I believe my pastor is the embodiment of the vision of the Church Of God In Christ in its desire to be a lamp for Jesus to a wayward world. Pastor Pullings, Jr. is a beacon of service to the suffering and a tower of Christian fortitude, honesty, and commitment to those seeking change through a relationship with Jesus Christ. Pastor has been a leader in Queens, New York servicing the

residents and other churches throughout the community by running the "Five Loaves & Two Fishes" food pantry and emergency feeding station. As a result, our church has partnered with "Food for Survival," "The United Way" and "City Harvest." The pantry is registered with the city of New York as a source to families and individuals who do not receive food stamps or aide. This endeavor has also been a blessing to families who are currently seeking aide for legitimate immigration status. During the tragic Hurricane Katrina floods, Pastor Pullings worked diligently with displaced survivors provided humanitarian support to over 500 families from New Orleans while they resided in several Queens, NY hotels for about two years. Pastor Pullings also worked with director Spike Lee and was featured in the documentary "When the Levees Broke." Pastor Pullings is the commissioner of the Missions Department in the Eastern New York Jurisdiction and was appointed Disaster Relief Coordinator for COGIC Charities by Bishop Charles E. Blake, Sr. Pastor Pullings has since worked in the earthquakedevastated country of Haiti and has helped to complete the construction of an orphanage, missionary residence and clinic for the people of Haiti. This past winter, as Disaster Relief Coordinator for COGIC Charities, Pastor Pullings served local churches and pastors by assessing damages and destruction that many sanctuaries incurred after Hurricane Sandy in New York and New Jersey. Pastor Pullings drove all over for many days helping to determine the level of aide many congregations would receive from the Church Of God In Christ.

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#### JEREMIAH AWARD

(3 honorees)

Nominee:

Nominated By: Category: Church:

Pastor:

Myrna Howard

Sister Joanne Orhue Jeremiah Award Holiness Tabernacle Church Of God In Christ

Pastor Eddie B. Pruitte, Jr.

I am a member of Holiness Tabernacle Church Of God In Christ where Elder Eddie B. Pruitte is my

pastor in the Great Northern District of Virginia. I would like to nominate Missionary Myrna Howard for the Jeremiah Award because for the past several years, I have watched her selflessly pour herself into our wildly successful food distribution program as our Missions Department president. Twice a month, we distribute more than 10,000 lbs. of food in total. Thanks to her tireless efforts, our food pantry serves an average of 250+ families per month, with each family averaging 4 individual members. We are known in Prince William County as a pillar in the community and as a resource for needy families. Missionary Howard started our food pantry with the approval of our pastor, having the financial support of the Missions Department. In 2011, she got our church involved with the county under the Capital Area Food Bank (CAFB), one of the largest distributors of donated food in the United States, which substantially increased the number of families we could reach. She stays up late at night preparing monthly reports that are submitted to the USDA to give account of how we distribute our food. She personally coordinates the delivery of food from the food bank to our church. She also personally picks-up the food that we distribute. Twice a month, she leads a team of volunteers from the church and community as we distribute the food. She spends countless hours making sure things run smoothly behind the scenes. We've received recognition from local government and our local bank president who have both volunteered at our distributions on several occasions. For years, Missionary Howard did all this work while living in one bedroom that she rented from another family, working a full-time, physically demanding job at Ikea as a forklift operator, and a second job as a house cleaner. She did all this while living away from her husband and children who resided in Alabama, only remaining in Woodbridge, Virginia to take sole care of her elderly grandmother who has now passed away. Not only that, but during this time, she has also dealt with her own serious health issues. I feel the need to nominate Missionary Howard for the Jeremiah Award because to me and my fellow parishioners, she epitomizes the selfless character found in the prophet Jeremiah. She always puts the needs of the program ahead of her personal needs, sacrificing time, energy and money at a moment's notice. In spite of her personal hardships and sacrifices, she never seeks out recognition for her tireless deeds, but works behind the scenes and in front to do whatever it takes to make the food program run successfully.

#### **Nominee:**

Nominated By: Category: Church:

#### Rita Williams

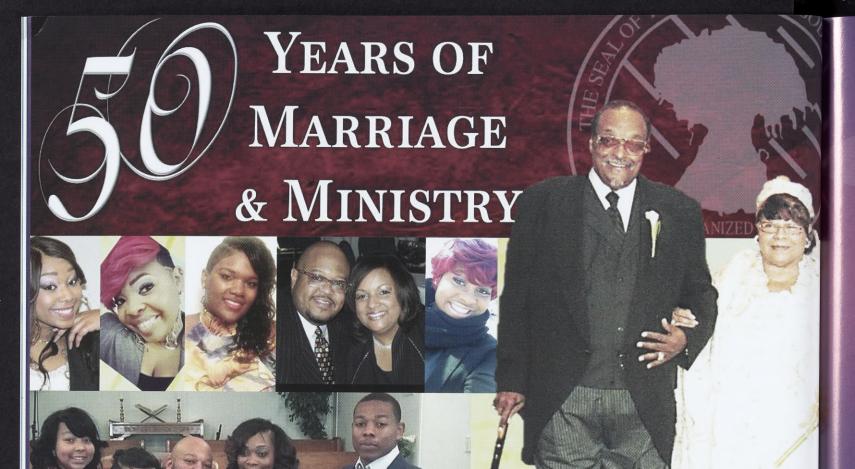
Elder Curtis Williams, II
Jeremiah Award
Holy Trinity House of
Prayer Church Of God
In Christ
Pastor Curtis Williams, Sr.

Pastor:



My mother, Evangelist Rita Williams, is a true voice of inspiration and I am nominating her for the Jeremiah Award. Evangelist Williams is the first lady of Holy Trinity House of Prayer in Hainesport, NJ, where she serves

faithfully beside her husband and pastor, Elder Curtis Williams, Sr. She has continued to be faithful to fulfilling her assignment even as she has endured a great personal hardship. In August of 2010, her mother suffered a massive stroke, which has left her unable to care for herself. Evangelist Williams is very close to her mother and this circumstance has been a major test of her own faith. However, there has never been a time that she has expressed doubt about God's ability to heal her mother. Evangelist Williams has taken the lead in coordinating her mother's care and personal affairs. She faithfully visits her mother in the nursing home facility every day, ensuring that her mother, who is unable to speak for herself, receives adequate care. Not only that, but when she visits the nursing home, she takes the time to build relationships with other residents who don't have family to visit them on a regular basis. Even in her dealings with the nursing home staff and administrators, she always exemplifies the qualities of a mature, Christian woman. Amazingly, as she cares for her mother, Evangelist Williams continues to labor in the work of the Lord at her local local church, completing all sorts of behind the



# CELEBRATING LEGACY ASTOR LEE ALLEN & MOTHER CHARLOTTE PIGHT

50 years married, 50 years in the ministry, 42 years pastoring and 38 years as pastor of one of the oldest churches in the Church of God in Christ. Pastor Lee A. Spight, Sr. is the longest serving pastor of the Holy Temple COGIC, Buffalo, New York. He also, serves the New York Western Second Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction as a Superintendent, Administrative Assistant, and Chairman of the Board of Superintendents under the leadership of Bishop G. H. Young, Sr., Jurisdictional Prelate.

Administrative Assistant Lee A. Spight, Sr. has been married to Mother Charlotte Spight for 50 years. They are the blessed parent of two (2) beautiful children, a son, Pastor Lee Allen Spight, Jr. of Kansas City, Kansas and a loving daughter, Missionary Evangelist Cara Jeanine Spight-Dean of Rochester, New York. They are also blessed with seven (7) grandchildren, one of whom is a nationally known recording artist and 2012 runner -up of "Sunday Best", Alexis Spight. Administrative Assistant Spight often mentions how the Lord has blessed his children and grandchildren to all be saved.

Under their leadership, the first appointment as pastor resulted in the erection of a beautiful edifice built from the ground up and yet stands today as one of the leading churches in the Maury City, Tennessee area. Over the past 50 years Administrative Assistant and Mother Spight have made many accomplishments and received many awards that are too numerous to mention. However, their most valued accomplishment is the many men and women that have been mentored, taught and prepared for greater works. Many souls, leaders and pastors have been birthed from their ministry.

vacuuming the carpets, all to ensure that the house of God is beautiful when the saints come in to worship. She does this, in addition to working her full time job as a Court Administrator in the state of New Jersey, and taking care of her family and home. Personally, I have been impressed by Evangelist Williams' ability to balance the various responsibilities that she holds. While there have certainly been rough patches along the way, she stands on the promise that God made to her about her mother. She has exemplified what it means for the saints to "Endure hardness as a soldier." She has been an inspiration to me, as her son. and to the saints in the local church and jurisdiction. Therefore, I, Elder Curtis Williams II, nominate Evangelist Rita Williams, who in spite of personal crisis and hardship, has continued to dedicate herself to the furtherance of the Gospel of Christ, while laboring unselfishly and in obscurity within her church and local community.

**Nominee:** Ericka Riggins-Brown

**Evangelist Missionary** Nominated By:

Debra Carrol

Category: Jeremiah Award

Church: Beth-El

٦d

Church Of God In Christ

Pastor Ollie Brown Pastor:

Besides her deliverance from homelessness, abuse, backsliding and finding her way back, Mrs. Brown is the voice of the silent youth. She doesn't just talk about a change needing to take place, Mrs. Brown IS the change that has taken place! In 2009, Mrs. Ericka Riggins-Brown created a movement entitled the "Stop Tripping Crusade." The mission is to empower young people with spiritual, physical and emotional guidance, and to foster stronger bonds and create a safe haven for troubled teens, displaced youth and misguided young adults. Mrs. Brown was sitting in her church with her attention drawn to the young people. In her words, "They looked uninterested, bored, detached, and unconcerned." But when the Lord told her to look again, He showed her the abuse, oppression, loneliness, misery, anguish, confusion and despair that the youth were going through. Hence, "STOP TRIPPING" was born. The Lord gave Mrs. Brown the vision to start a youth empowerment crusade and along with that vision,

God revealed to her Jude 1:24. Mrs. Brown has been making a difference, not only for the youth that go to church, but for the youth she is drawing who were told that they would never amount to anything; the youth that are struggling every day to live when death is all around them. The crusade takes place twice a year and occurs over four days with five dynamic speakers. Mrs. Brown has made it easy for the youth with no voice to be able to speak, to know that they are somebody and that they can be delivered, healed and set free. During each crusade there are 2 youth that testify about how "Stop Tripping" has changed their lives for the better. This crusade is not service as usual, but a life changing movement! On July 20, 2013, "Stop Tripping" held its first "I Stopped Tripping Awards Banquet," honoring 8 young people who faced enormous challenges but came out victorious. This day was also proclaimed as "Stop Tripping Day" by city council chairman Michael Smith. Mrs. Brown has also started a "Help My Family" monetary award. During the awards banquet, \$500 was awarded to a family in need. This year, Mrs. Brown also distributed scholarships, iPads® and laptops. Mrs. Brown finances the crusade out-of-pocket. She has put herself to the side so that the ministry can be effective. The fruit is evident and she is making a difference in the lives of others; hence, Kingdom building is taking place! Visit www.stoptripping.org to learn more.

## MASTER OF MOTIVATION (3 honorees)

Barbara Booker **Nominee:** 

Nominated By: **Evangelist Missionary** 

Elaine Capers

Category: Master of Motivation

Church: New Life

Church Of God In Christ

Pastor LeRoy Jones, Sr. Pastor:

Mother Barbara Booker is the assistant to Mother

is doing what is required of them on the jurisdiction level. She also works in her local church at whatever she can find her hands to do. Mother Booker is a woman of excellence and does very special things to motivate the women in the local church and jurisdiction to be women of godly character. She sends out wonderful messages and e-mails to encourage us. She never puts anybody down but lets you know that you can make it. Her niche most of all is the young women in the church. She recently had a spa day for the 49 and under to show them how to pamper themselves and to let them know how special they are. She hosts sponsored trips to foreign countries for the youth to go abroad and do ministry. To me, Mother Booker shows and exemplifies motivation in many ways. Her spirit is so pleasant and her demeanor is always that of a godly woman or a sister. She has shown us that even through adversities, you can continue to persevere. Both of her parents were ill at the same time. She never missed taking care of them while meeting the needs of others. You never heard her complain or say that it was too much. I commend Mother Booker for a job well done of taking care of her parents, never forgetting her spouse or her son, and keeping it all together.

Nominee:

Nominated By: Category: Church:

Pastor:

**Juliet White** 

Lydia Bonner
Master of Motivation
Zion Cathedral
Church Of God In Christ
Pastor Frank A. White



Dr. White is an awesome example of a true woman of God. Her anointing, her beauty and character as a holy woman makes women want to be like her. Her conversation lets you know that she is sold out for Christ. Her example of being a mother and being a wife is something that all women should model.

She is always encouraging the younger women to stay with the Lord and to always be holy women of God. She also doesn't mind dishing out a little correction when needed. She is committed to Christ, as well as her local church and jurisdiction. If you

just watch her you, no conversation needed, you can learn so much about walking with the Lord and how a woman of God is to carry herself. I believe she is a Master of Motivation because not only does she motivate all women every opportunity she gets, but she doesn't even have to say a word, her actions of a holy lifestyle and her love for Christ, her church, and her family speak louder than any words...her actions speak louder than words!!! Now that's a motivator! When you don't even have to say a word but your life is an example. I am always encouraged when I see her that I can make it! I can live holy no matter what the cost and no matter what obstacle is in front of me.

#### **Nominee:**

Nominated By: Category: Church:

Pastor:

### ANNTWANIQUE EDWARDS

Superintendent Elton Oliver Master of Motivation Unity Tabernacle Church Of God In Christ Superintendent Elton Oliver



Dr. Anntwanique
Edwards demonstrates
the love of God in
all she does. Loving
others and motivating
them to succeed is
at the root of her
accomplishments.
Before she begins
working on any as-

signment, she first determines how others may be blessed. Her goal is to be a servant in the Kingdom of God. Dr. Edwards pursues the will of God, walking in His excellence while fulfilling every task set before her. She never settles for mediocre performance, thus her faith mixed along with a phenomenal work ethic has brought forth much fruit. She has attained five degrees from the University of Florida; works as an assistant principal for a public middle/high alternative school; published two books directed at youth and young adult audiences; served as the founder and pastor of a COGIC church for nearly six years (Generation COGIC); maintains a position as the founder and president of a non-profit 501c3 organization (Divine Ministry, Inc.); and held several leadership positions for the Florida Central

Second Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction. Furthermore, she's shared inspirational messages for the past five years at the International AIM Conference during Revival Fires for the evangelism department. She does all of this while remaining faithful to her local church and being obedient to her local and jurisdictional leaders. She takes the position of a leader and goes above and beyond to get the job done! However, she embraces all those around her to share in decision-making, as well as in the celebration of the finished work. Evangelist Edwards has the heart of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Finally, Dr. Edwards is a licensed missionary/evangelist who whole-heartedly promotes the word of God with authority and compassion. It only takes one time to see her working at the altar to know she reverences Christ and the needs of His people. It only takes one time to witness a child run up to her with a huge smile and open arms to realize how much encouragement she brings our youth. And it only takes one testimony from an adult who has encountered her ministry to know how much she inspires others to live for God! As one who genuinely seeks God in her everyday life and participates in authentic worship, Evangelist Edwards is a great role model. She lives a life of holiness with integrity. Dr. Anntwanique D. Edwards is notably dedicated to the Church Of God In Christ as a servant leader and should be honored as a Voice of Inspiration!

#### MOST INSPIRING SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER (3 honorees)

Nominee:

Nominated By: Category: Church:

Pastor:

Janice Thompson

Pastor Terence Hayes
Most Inspiring SS Teacher
Faith Deliverance
Church Of God In Christ
Pastor Terence O. Hayes, Sr.

It is with great pride and honor that I nominate Missionary Janice Thompson of Faith Deliverance Church Of God In Christ as Most Inspiring Sunday School Teacher. Janice is the daughter of Pastor Jo-



seph and Roxie-Mae Morgan. The roster of teachers is compiled by our Sunday School president each quarter and it has been without fail that Janice is ready, then she aims and fires, presenting a

powerful and informative study of the outlined text. A Sunday School teacher needs to possess, in my opinion, one key element: creativity. On any given Sunday you can be certain that Missionary Thompson will brainstorm the content of the lesson, gather all of the necessary visual aids to visually display the lesson, and she doesn't leave her students out of the process. One particular Sunday she highlighted the pastor and his wife as king and queen from the lesson text during that quarter. Her latest illustration was an arrangement of the weight and burden a leader carries serving the church and the sheep he is responsible to lead. When she prepares a Sunday School lesson she puts her heart and soul into the study and presentation. The Word of God should not only be life-changing, it should be soul-engaging. terJanice also serves as a dedicated member of our local choir. Her jubilant and passionate spirit radiates among all the voices in the choir because she sings with a conviction of power and strength, just as she handles the Word of God as a teacher. She is also a licensed missionary. It is also worth noting that Janice recently received her certification in child care from her job. This teacher is by far a woman of faith! She is not ashamed to share with you her weaknesses as well as her strengths as a woman of God. The pastor is always assured that if he wants a testimony leader that's on fire, Missionary Thompson is the one to deliver. Jeremiah declared from the Word of the Lord, "It's like fire shut up in my bones." Well the fire is shut up and pours out of this servant's soul, and the Body of Christ receives her with open arms. It is inspiring to know that Janice has been trained well, taught well, and knows very well how to deliver. The Young Women's Christian Council president selected her to address the annual First Lady's Tea. Janice gave an inspiring message children, and a loving grandmother.

#### Nominee:

Nominated By: Category: Church:

#### Pastor:

#### VIVIAN PRUITTE

Elder Eugene McCown Most Inspiring SS Teacher Holiness Tabernacle Church Of God In Christ Pastor Eddie B. Pruitte, Jr.

Mother Vivian Pruitte is a Bible scholar. Her favorite book of the Bible is the Old Testament. Yes, I understand that the Old Testament is not a book, but she loves the entire Old Testament and makes no excuses for it. She inspires students with her love of the Bible, her passion, her knowledge, and makes our Sunday School class exciting and fun! Mother Pruitte encourages her students to study God's Word for themselves. She serves as the assistant dean of workshops for the First Jurisdiction of Virginia, and as a workshop/education coordinator for the entire jurisdiction. Mother Vivian Pruitte is most definitely the "Most Inspiring SS Teacher" that I know and I gladly nominate her for this award.

#### Nominee:

Nominated By: Category: Church:

Pastor:

#### **Michael Payton**

Kadrien Payton Most Inspiring SS Teacher New Birth

Church Of God In Christ

Superintendent Willard L. Payton

For the past 7 years, Elder Michael L. Payton has been honored to serve as the State Sunday School Superintendent for the First Jurisdiction Illinois, under the leadership of the visionary Bishop Ocie Booker. During his tenure as superintendent, the Sunday School in Illinois has thrived. Elder Payton hosts a weekly conference call lesson review entitled "Saturday Night Sunday School," reaching over 200 callers across the country, as well as in Japan, South Africa, Brazil and Canada, Callers listen to dedicated and anointed teachers dissect the lesson with spiritual precision and godly wisdom. Teachers and students alike can call-in as they prepare for service and hear how to analyze the lesson through and more!! Elder Payton has also developed other projects, including an annual Christian Resource Summit to provide teachers with critical tools for

instruction. He hosted the White House Office of Faith-Based and Neighborhood Projects in 2012, equipping pastors with vital information related to grants and federal funding. He implemented "Sunday School 101," a two-day training session held during our state convocation that instructs and equips teachers and students. And annually, he sponsors the "Sunday School Olympics," revitalizing the Scholastic Motivation activities under the Sunday School banner. Thank you for your consideration!

#### **SEASONED SAINT**

(3 honorees)

#### Nominee:

Nominated By:

Category: Church:

Pastor:

#### Mother Charity Delores Blanchard

Evangelist Missionary Cynthia Colbert Seasoned Saint Stephen Temple

Church Of God In Christ

Superintendent Theodore Colbert



Mother Charity Delores Blanchard has been blazing the trail for Christ for over 65 years. Now 83 years of age, she is an ageless and brilliant worker for the Lord. Her ministry is best characterized as energetic and innovative, with a particular anointing for bringing out the best in

hundreds of people. God has a precious, select group of leaders that are born to lead. He gives them the instincts, the aptitudes and ability to see impossibilities through His eyes, causing things to come to pass. This is the grace that God has bestowed upon her. She is an endless motivator with the optimism that will revive even the faintest of hearts. Some of the persons whose lives have been impacted by Mother Blanchard include pastors, superintendents and their wives, as well as

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her own sons and daughters. She is one of the most exemplary servants of the church that one can find. Some of her noteworthy contributions to the Body of Christ include being faithfully married to Brother Leo Blanchard for over 57 years until his demise in 2005; excelling as a wife and mother, working with her husband to train up her children to become successful entrepreneurs, professionals, ministers and activists; supporting the Greater New Covenant COGIC, under the leadership of Pastor Felix W. Early for over 25 years, assisting him in the infancy and seeing the ministry flourish into a viable church; purchasing two sets of choir robes; conducting major campaigns to purchase a Hammond organ that is still in use this day; purchasing a church van; and assisting with the remodeling of a new church edifice. She did all of this while helping to encourage, inspire, train and motivate youth to utilize their talents, gifts, and abilities. If you're discouraged, she can talk to you and within five minutes, you will be encouraged. She has had many titles in ministry, including youth department president, choir member, church mother, and Sunday School teacher/superintendent. You might call her "Wonder Woman" because you wonder how she does it all! The Apostle Paul must have had a divine premonition about Mother Blanchard when he so accurately crafted the words in I Corinthians 13:8, "Charity never faileth..." We nominate Mother Charity Delores Blanchard of Flint, Michigan, Stephen Temple COGIC, for the Seasoned Saint Award.

Nominee:

ninee: Mary Washington

Nominated By: Category:

Elder D'Angelo Franklin Seasoned Saint

Church: God's House of Refuge

Church Of God In Christ
Pastor Sanford Washington

Pastor:

There comes a time in the lives of all Christians where a good example is needed. When I came to Christ at the age of 13, it was a challenge to live saved. However, about 9 months after I started my Christian walk, a minister and his wife, Missionary Mary Washington, joined my local church. I observed this lady every time she came to church. She was always the first to jump up and testify and always dancing and praising the Lord. She became one of the head prayer warriors at the church and was a great example for a large number of young people. We all began to call her godmother and

mom without hesitation. A few months after her joining, she was praising the Lord in a dance one Sunday and came and grabbed me. I began to praise the Lord and went up in praise. That same Sunday night, she did the same thing and over the next few months, she kept grabbing me and pushing me to praise the Lord. When the summer hit, she was constantly on me about coming to prayer daily. She kept on working with me until I knew how to praise God without any assistance, but for myself. She kept working with me until I knew how to pray for myself. A couple of years later, when cancer hit my body as a teenager, I understood why God kept using her to push me. If it had not been for her pushing me, I would have never made it through my illness. That has been over 10 years ago now. As a result of her motivation, I now am a strong intercessor, an ordained elder and most of all, a praiser. I'm grateful for the way Mother Washington pushed me to go deeper in God.

#### **Nominee:**

Nominated By: Category:

Pastor:

Church:

#### **Mother Linda Pasters**

Susan Fowler Seasoned Saint Greater Love Church Of God

Church Of God In Christ

Superintendent Johnnie Q. Jones



I nominate Mother Linda Pasters for the Seasoned Saint award,

as she has always been an example for all young ladies. I met her 35 years ago and it seems like it was only yesterday. She has always showed love to every stranger because Mother Linda loves the Lord and the Lord's people. She has always opened her home to those in need. In the past 20 plus years, she has been a foster care mother and works with the girls in her home to teach them to respect themselves and others. She also takes them on trips (Jamaica, Mexico, New York, Miami) so that they can see how the world is. Mother Linda's girls have been featured in the local newspaper for the past 5

years because they all graduate and go on to college. Although she is stern with them, they all love her and don't want to leave her home. She is always there for them.

## S.E. MITCHELL EVANGELISTIC (3 honorees)

Nominee:

Joseph Ellis

Nominated By:

**Evangelist Missionary** 

Elita Armstrong

Category:

S.E. Mitchell Evangelistic

Award

Church:

Mount Olive

Church Of God In Christ

Pastor:

Superintendent Joseph S. Ellis

I am nominating my pastor for the S.E. Mitchell Evangelistic award. He has preached God's Word in the church, on the street, in Africa, in prisons and jails. He loves the Lord and is dedicated to letting you know that your faith in God will bring you out. My pastor preaches on the radio every Saturday and Sunday morning. He doesn't care if the Word makes you mad. If God tells him to say it, he will let you know that nobody is mad but the devil. On many occasions, when sickness was racking his body, he would still preach. Times when trials and tribulations were coming his way, he still preached. He loves young people and children and even though they are young, he lets them know it's holiness or hell. At the same time, he lets them know how much God loves them and how much he loves them. In recent years, health issues tried to dominate his body. He didn't let that stop him. He sits in his wheel chair and yet preaches the Word of God. Many souls have been saved, blessed and encouraged through his ministry. He is a man of prayer and a man of wisdom and knowledge. He delivers prophetic Word. What God gives him to give you will come to pass. He calls it as he sees it from the Lord. He has Genesis to Revelation covered and he doesn't preach one book instructed others in the Word of the Lord. He began

as the youth pastor, became the pastor, and finally a superintendent. Whether it's family, enemy, saint, sinner, or neighbor, he will not back down to what God's Word says. He loves the Lord, loves to praise the Lord and to lift up the name of Jesus. Many have testified about how his ministry blessed and helped them through tough times. Many have testified about how the love and concern that he showed encouraged them to run and see what the end will be. Many have testified to how his ministry adheres to the teaching of holiness. He is faithful and loyal to the Lord, the church, and the members he serves. Based on the above mentioned reasons, I feel Supt. Joseph Ellis should be a recipient of this award. When the Lord returns, with all of my heart, I believe He will say well done my good and faithful servant.

Nominee:

JAMEL STRONG

Nominated By: Category:

Missionary DeLinda Smith S.E. Mitchell Evangelistic

J.L.

Award

Church:

Fountain of Life Ministries Church Of God In Christ

Pastor:

Pastor James Strong

District Evangelist Elder Jamel Strong preaches the unadulterated Gospel with deliverance and power, as he travels within the community and to other states sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Elder Strong serves as the president of the evangelistic team for Fountain of Life Ministries and is known for his door-to-door approach for witnessing to lost souls, regardless of the location. For instance, on a second Saturday morning, in the middle of a community project, Elder Strong conducted a street altar call and a soul was delivered from drug addiction. Although Elder Strong ministers mightily during youth conferences, district revivals, women's and men's conferences, he once humbly stated, "I just want souls to be saved." Furthermore, Elder Strong produced the 1st Inaugural Evangelism Sword and Flame Magazine for the Huntsville District, emphasizing the Church of God in Christ Evangelism theme, 'The flame of evangelism must never go calls for the community and many souls were set free. District Evangelist Elder Jamel Strong founded Strength Ministries which also enables him to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ as he travels

Gospel. Although he has ministered with some of the greatest Gospel artists in the world, such as the late Dr. Mattie Moss Clark and the Clark Sisters, Bishop Walter Hawkins, Kim Burrell, Pastor Marvin Sapp, Benita Washington and Maurette Brown-Clark, he preaches the Gospel at every chance and opportunity. It is with great honor to nominate District Evangelist Elder Jamel Strong for his unseen labor in keeping Evangelist Department viable in order to reach the masses for the Kingdom.

**Nominee:** 

Larry Clayton

Nominated By:

**Evangelist Missionary** Elita Armstrong

Category:

S.E. Mitchell Evangelistic

Award

Church:

Pastor:

Greater Shiloh

Church Of God In Christ

Pastor Larry Clayton

Lord, thank you for my angel... I am very pleased to nominate my pastor, Superintendent Larry Clayton, for the S. E. Mitchell Evangelistic Award. He is a major force in my life. Elder Clayton is over 60, but you'd think he's in his 20's because of how busy he is working for the Lord! He is pastor of 2 churches, district superintendent, jurisdictional secretary, and does prison ministry. He is a God-fearing, God-led servant who consistently reminds us that holiness and the "old time way" is God's way and "don't remove the old landmark." Pastor Clayton says, "If you stop preaching holiness, you'll stop having holy people". He once said, "On my driver's license I did not choose to be an organ donor because by the time I wear this body out for God, it won't be any good." I thank God that there are still examples on earth who will not compromise the Word of God, and that someone got it right and kept it right for those who would come after them. Being raised by a holy mother who had been converted to holiness from Catholicism, I, like so many children, strayed from my teaching. As a result, I became an unwed mother, lost my job, was a rape victim, and once required brain surgery. My relationship with the Lord was broken. In 2005. Hurricane Katrina hit and forced me out of Louisiana. When I returned, a surgery came to live with me and my three children. What a mistake! He was an alcoholic, but one

preacher who he invited to my house. The preacher, Elder Clayton, invited me to service and got a commitment from me to attend church. The devil told me the services lasted too long. I would even skip service, but that preacher continually came to see me and encouraged me to be faithful. Soon, I joined his church and was saved again and filled with the Holy Ghost. Night or day, through good times or bad, he made himself available. I began to feel the love of God again through his ministry. Pastor Clayton became both my spiritual and secular father through the love he showed me. I began to experience the holiness that my momma lived. Thank God my mother planted, my pastor watered, and GOD gave the increase. I found my angel and my pastor, Larry Clayton, a man after GOD's own heart. I am now a laborer with my leader and am determined to run ALL the way. I truly thank God for my angel. He's my pastor, my superintendent, and I love Elder Larry Clayton as a father. I pray that the committee will give him every consideration. He is truly a servant worthy of recognition.

Prayerfully Yours, Missionary Elita Armstrong

#### UNSUNG HERO (3 honorees)

**Nominee:** 

**Timothy Hood** 

Nominated By:

Sister Inez Cassimere

Category: Church:

Unsung Hero

The Third

Pastor:

Church Of God In Christ Pastor Alfred S. Hood, Sr.

It is with great pleasure that I submit the name of Brother Timothy T. Hood for the Unsung Hero award. First, Timothy is a saved young man who is a great role model for the younger members of The Third Church Of God In Christ in New Orleans, Louisiana. While others his age are pursuing the pleasures of this world, he is actively engaged in Kingdom-building. Whenever there is a church service, Brother Hood is present: Sunday School, YPWW, Bible Band, Choir rehearsal, and whenever possible, noon-time prayer service. He also works actively with our district and jurisdiction. He's jack of all trades. I have had the opportunity to observe

the many ways he takes on the odd jobs of servant. He does not wait to be assigned a job, but willingly volunteers wherever and whenever there is a need. The following is a description of a typical week in his life: Every Sunday, Timothy dutifully travels to Baton Rouge to pick up four senior members who relocated after Hurricane Katrina. He travels a round-trip distance of more than 160 miles. However, prior to leaving New Orleans, he goes to our church and prepares the edifice for Sunday worship, light cleaning and turning on heat/air. Usually, he and his companions will arrive at church before the end of Sunday School. When our district meets on the first Sunday of each month, Brother Tim also brings his elderly companions to and from the district meeting before returning them to Baton Rouge. By the time he returns to his home in New Orleans, it is 8 or 9 in the evening. Thus, he ends a day of service of more than 12 hours. During the week, as a self-appointed custodian, he cleans, picks up trash, changes bulbs and batteries where necessary. He even purchased a battery charger to keep the sound system working properly. One night at YPWW, the air conditioning unit was too noisy, so he went to his truck and came back with tools to fix the problem. Within minutes, he had made the adjustments without interrupting service. Brother Hood is unique and very special. He truly cares about Gods work. If he observes a need, he doesn't wait to be asked. Additionally, he serves as an unofficial adjutant for our pastor. Although he does not have that official title, he simply does the work of an adjutant. My pastor is not a bishop or superintendent, but Timothy reverently and energetically serves him as though he is serving the LORD. I thank God for giving him the desire to serve and enabling him to work for God's good pleasure. I am sure that the committee agrees with me that Brother Timothy T. Hood, a young son of God, is a worthy and deserving candidate for THE UNSUNG HERO AWARD. I recommend him without reservation.

Yours in Christ, Sister Inez H. Cassimere, Sunday School Superintendent, 3rd COGIC NOLA

#### Nominee:

Nominated By: Category: Church: Willie Moore
Deacon Oscar Jacobs
Unsung Hero
Davis Memorial
Church Of God In Christ

Pastor Erick W. Slack

Pastor:

Brother Willie Moore is a man who will go to great lengths to advance the Kingdom of God, often sacrificing his time, strength and finances to help someone in need. Willie does most of the things that he does for the church, and or needy people, behind the scenes, not asking for notoriety, a pat on the back, or financial gain. Willie is a man of God, full of grace and humility. He is much younger than me, but he is my mentor in Christ. I met him 13 years ago and at that time, he was going through trials and tribulations. I had just come back to Christ and the church, after 32 years of drug and alcohol addiction, when I observed this young man who seemed too good to be true, because he was always busy, in and out of church. I found out that he had just recently lost his wife and family, his home and sight in one eye. He was always praising God, reading his Bible and praying. He visited the sick, gave food to the hungry and went to see visit people in jail. I observed him for over a year to see if he was for real. I couldn't figure out why he was always praising God. Didn't he realize he should be complaining that life had been unfair? He was and is for real! I wanted what he had so I asked him to be my mentor and he agreed. He helped me to stay clean and sober. But more than that, he helped me to see Jesus and taught me how to give of myself. Willie Moore helped me learn to think of others and to truly care.

Nominee:

Nominated By: Category:

Category: Unsung Hero Church: Breakthrough

Church Of God In Christ

Pastor:

Pastor Charles E. Gibson

**Robert Cammon** 

Sister Joyceland Hendricks

My nominee for the award of Unsung Hero is Deacon Robert Cammon. Although we call him deacon, he is much more than that: he is an usher, Sunday School Superintendent, and leads the Tuesday through Friday prayer, as well as Bible Band each week. Deacon Cammon is a role model in demon-



strating that whatever his hands find to do, that he does as unto the Lord. No job is too insignificant, and he possesses a willing spirit to be of assistance wherever he is needed in his local church. Because of his humble spirit, he does not feel it necessary to call attention to himself as he goes

about doing whatever job he is called on to perform. Before his recent retirement, he served the public 25 years as a teacher and assistant athletic director with the Pomona Unified School District. Before that, he served 15 years with the U.S. Post Office. Being of service is his life, and loving people is a God-given trait. Deacon Cammon is also a man with a quiver full. He and his beautiful wife of 41 years (also a school teacher) are the parents of 8 children, all of whom are blessed to have attained college educations. He is a richly blessed man who readily acknowledges that without God he could do nothing, and without Him he would have nothing. Christ is the Rock on which he stands. Deacon Cammon is unselfish and also a recruiter, of sorts. His eye is always on the lookout for gifts and talents in others that can be used in the work of the Kingdom. In addition, he is an encourager to those with whom he comes in contact, as well as being a student of the Word of God. And did I mention that he is a prayer warrior? Something to note about Deacon Cammon is that he is educated about the history of COGIC and considers it important to be informed about what our international church is doing. He is a vital part of the Men's Department and keeps himself informed of what other churches are doing, both in and out of our denomination. He loves, respects and speaks well of our Presiding Prelate, Bishop Blake. Deacon Robert Cammon is a gift to the Body of Christ in general, and to Breakthrough COGIC in particular. His pastor acknowledges and appreciates his helping hand and willing spirit. In all that he does, he does with a smile and a YES spirit.

Respectfully Submitted, Sis. Joyceland Hendricks

#### PRESIDING BISHOP C.E. BLAKE, SR. LEADERSHIP AWARD

(Group honoree)

Nominee:

Bishop Carlis Moody and The Missions Department th

be

th

Category:

Presiding Bishop Leadership Award



From church to This year's Voices of Inspiration Program includes a new category, The Presiding Bishop Charles E. Blake, Sr. Leadership Award. This award is presented by the Presiding Bishop to a person or group of persons who: exemplify loyalty, dedication and com-

mitment to God, His Church and their assignment in the Church Of God In Christ; consistently serve to ensure that the Presiding Bishop's Vision for COGIC is carried out in a most excellent way; regularly exhibit enthusiasm and grace to every assignment and interaction with people within and outside of COGIC; and show an understanding of the Mission, Vision and Principles of COGIC. TWT is pleased to announce that from the nominations, Bishop Blake has selected the Missions Department as this year's recipient of the Presiding Bishop Charles E. Blake Leadership Award. The history of the Missions Department reaches back to the early 1920s. The department has been successfully and capably led by Bishop Carlis Moody of Evanston, IL since 1975. Amazingly, the Church Of God In Christ is currently located in 60 foreign nations, all of which are supervised by Bishop Moody and the Missions Department. Currently, significant work has been done and impactful contributions have been made in countries devastated by disaster, especially, Japan, Haiti and in South Africa. Tremendous work has been done

by Missions to advance the presence of God and the Church Of God In Christ in these countries. On behalf of the Presiding Bishop, Publishing Board Chairman, Pastor Mark Ellis, and the entire TWT staff, a hearty congratulations to Bishop Moody and the Missions Department on this prestigious and well-deserved recognition. **TWT** 





# Christ, the Hope of Glory to



By Reginald Boswell

## The History of Christian Missions in India

St. Thomas, called Didymus, a disciple of Jesus Christ, came to India in 52 AD. He preached the Gospel for about 20 years and was martyred, being thrust with a spear in Chennai in AD 72. Afterwards, Christian influences spread across the nation until the third century but dwindled due to indigenous per secution and caste opposition. Later, it was the formidable mission work of St. Francis Xavier, a Catholic priest who arrived in Goa, India in 1542, that left an indelible Christian impression upon the culture of India. Xavier was commissioned by King John of Portugal to revive Christianity among Portuguese merchants whose colonization efforts continually spread after Portuguese Explorer Vasco Da Gama arrived in India in 1498. St. Xavier is remembered most notably for modeling Christianity and utilizing a printing press which printed in Tamil, a classic language of India and one of the world's oldest continually spoken languages. Next, Bartholomäus Ziegenbalg arrived in India in 1706, at the request of the King of Denmark, to spread the vision of the Gospel in India. Like Xavier, Ziegenbalg operated a printing press, but his mission was in Tranquebar, India. In 1714, he completed a translation of the New Testament in Tamil which effectively created a means to spread the Gospel into the hearts and the minds of the people.

Christianity has always drawn fierce resistance from other factions in India; however, this is made worse

The Pentecostal movement reached India in the early 20th century. The first Pentecostal missionary from the U.S. was Robert Cook, who arrived in India in 1913. Others also came who were influenced by the Azusa revival and as a result of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in the Mukthi Mission of Pandit Rama Bai. Bishop Bevin G. Lawrence, M.B.B.S., B.D., M.D., D.Min., Jurisdictional Prelate of India III said, "During the 20th century, missionaries traditionally followed the concept of 'SOAP, SOUP AND SALVATION' because they were evangelizing illiterate, poor and neglected people. Soap is meant for cleaning physically and the soap of education was to clean the ignorance. Soup meant provision of food and medicines. By these means they preached salvation. Schools, colleges and hospitals were started by Christian missionaries. Even now, there are institutions worth millions of dollars under the Catholic and Protestant churches."

when colonists who accompany or follow missionaries are accepted as Christians but exploit their hosts. Unfortunately, Pentecostals, Baptist missions, the Methodist movement, the Salvation Army and the London Mission Society have all faced such skepticism in India and the added pressure of proving the authenticity of one's faith among charlatans posing as Christians. Should the people of India be burdened with the task of deciding whether those that greet them in the name of Christ be as Saul (St. Paul's pre-conversion) or a St. Paul (Apostolic visionary)?

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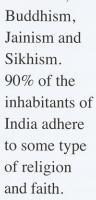
missionaries. Even now, there are institutions worth millions of dollars under the Catholic and Protestant churches."

#### **DIVERSITY AND** INTOLERANCE

The country of India, with a population of 1.2 billion people, is one sixth of the world's population who speak more than a thousand languages and dialects, and who support more than 20 political parties. India is characterized by

a diverse religious tradition and is the birth place of four of the world's major

religions: Hinduism,



2.5% of India is reportedly Christian while 60% is Hindu. The Hindu majority claims that India is a Hindu country and they demand laws that prohibit religious conversion. "These anti-conversion laws victimize

Christians and Muslims. In some of the states the anti-conversion law is already enforced. Open air meetings, tract distribution and other modes of evangelism are prohibited in many places. The pastors face threats from religious fundamentalists. There are sporadic incidences of murder, persecution, and evacuation of Christian villages by Hindu landlords," said Bishop Lawrence.

Furthermore, Bishop



Lawrence states that, "Most of our churches are in rented buildings and the house owners ask us to vacate without any proper notice. The poor believers are not able to buy lands and construct church buildings. We request the mission minded churches to construct their own church buildings in India."

THE HISTORY OF **COGIC IN INDIA** - PROSPECTS OF **MINISTRY** 

Church of God in Christ mission work entered India in early 1970s. Ninety percent of a 1.2 billion population are waiting to know the



love of Christ. Bishop Lawrence said, "India is one of the thickly populated countries in the world, so we have opportunities for evangelism everywhere. Poverty, illiteracy and superstitions make people unsatisfied in their lives. Indians are basically religious and so they go to their gods for help. But when nothing is done, they try to go for alternate solutions. This is the place where Christ is needed. They start seeking God. COGIC has to support the local mission workers for this great and urgent task. The fields are ripe and COGIC needs laborers. Our local missionaries work hard to establish churches in the states of Uttar Pradesh and Jarkhand." COGIC



physically and the soap of education was to clean the ignorance. Soup meant provision of food and medicines. By these means they preached salvation. Schools, colleges and hospitals were started by Christian

currently has churches in the states of Tamilnadu, Andra Pradesh, Kerala, Orissa, Maharashtra and Delhi.

**TWT** 

Reginald Boswell is a member of True Light COGIC in Huntsville, AL where Supt. Terrell Harris, Jr. is the pastor and Bishop Oscar L. Meadows is the prelate of Alabama 1st Jurisdiction.











### A MESSAGE FROM COGIC INDIA MINISTRIES

The pastors and ministers follow different methodologies to evangelize India and to establish churches with the power of the Holy Spirit. COGIC India carries out the following ministries:

- Jungle ministry among the jungle tribes
- Healthcare mission among the unreached population
- Educational mission among rural, tribal and destitute kids
- Women's ministry
- Youth ministry
- Sunday school ministry among kids.
- Orphanage home
- Television ministry
- Personal evangelism

"With the help of the donors, well wishers and the fellow brethren around the world, we look forward to a great harvest. Bikes and motor bikes are donated to pastors so that their travel becomes easy" (Bishop Lawrence).

"We hope and pray that with the prayer and support of the COGIC saints worldwide, the Indian COGIC will expand its territories and continue to win souls for the Kingdom of God" (Bishop Lawrence).

If you are interested in Indian Missions, please contact:



BISHOP DR. BEVIN G. LAWRENCE COGIC INDIA III JURISDICTION 3-103, LLOYDS ROAD, KODAIKANAL TAMILNADU, INDIA 624 101 E-MAIL: cogic.india@yahoo.com WEB SITE: www.cogic.in





# BISHOP P.A. BROOKS HOSTS Gun Buy-Back Event



On Saturday, May 18, 2013 in the gymnasium of the New St. Paul Tabernacle Church Of God in Christ, General Board Member Bishop P.A. Brooks partnered with Wayne County Executive Robert Fianco, Wayne County Sherriff Benny Napoleon, and the Goodman Acker Law Firm of Southfield, MI, to host the "Wayne County Groceries for Guns" event. The gun buy-back program was designed to assist in the removal of guns from the streets of Detroit, Michigan, as a means to help cease the ever-increasing, senseless acts of violence committed throughout the city on a daily basis.

Weapons were accepted, with no questions asked, and serial numbers were run to ensure that guns were not stolen. Any stolen items were returned to their legal owners. The remaining weapons were then properly destroyed by the Wayne County Sheriff's Department. \$50 gift cards for the Meijer grocery store chain were exchanged for the guns that were rendered.

Bishop Brooks stated, "The goal of the event was to give participants grocery gift cards for their unloaded guns and to make the streets safer for residents."

The Church Of God in Christ is blessed to have progressive, insightful leaders who are concerned with edifying the whole man, not just within their churches, but throughout their communities. We commend Bishop Brooks for his faithfulness and his fearlessness in this critical day and time.



## "A Wake Up Call To Today's Generation and Tomorrow's Future"

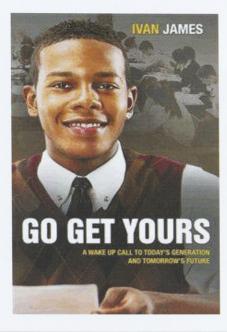
by Ivan James

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- Gift for any occasion





\*Registration cost include banquet meal, souvenir book and conference bag.

To register, go to <a href="https://www.hawaiiholyconvocation.eventbrite.com">www.hawaiiholyconvocation.eventbrite.com</a>.

For more info, contact Center of Deliverance at <a href="mailto:codministry1@gmail.com">codministry1@gmail.cod</a> or 808-783-5190.



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10:00 AM

**Sunday School University** 

**New Members Orientation** 

11:00 AM

**Worship Service** 

## Wednesdays

7:30 PM

(Youth)

Wired Up Wednesdays

(Weekly)

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(Monthly)

**Cohort Breakout Sessions** 

(Seasonal)

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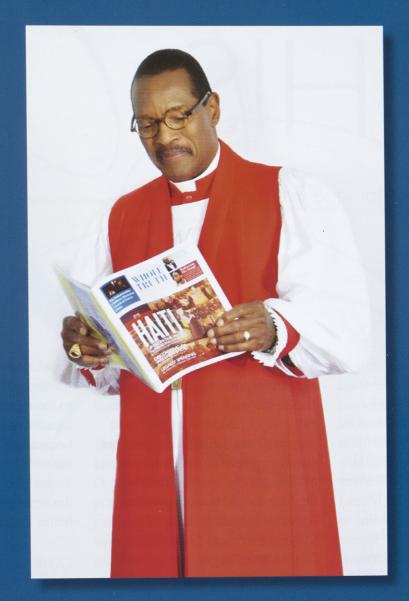
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# ALONE IN HIS

By Monique Fowlkes

communing with God. Prayer, incorporated with the quoting of Holy Scripture, is the most powerful tool Christians have. Throughout the Bible, we find numerous accounts of God responding to prayer and moving on behalf of individuals, groups and whole nations to bring His will to pass. It is through the Father's response to our prayers that He reveals more of Himself to us, thereby increasing our faith in Him and developing our relationship with Him. Personal prayer is what we use to get to know our Creator on an intimate level. If we get to truly know Him through prayer and the reading of His word, we become equipped to war in the spirit realm on behalf of ourselves, the Body of Christ and the world at large. If we desire to know God, the Father, we must incorporate prayer into our lives.

Many times, we find it relatively easy to respond to a call for corporate prayer service. This is the gathering of a group of people to pray at a set time, usually for a set purpose. This type of prayer is usually led by an individual with the balance of the group agreeing with that prayer, in faith. This is truly powerful, as Matthew 18:19-20 declares, "Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them." Corporate prayer is a very necessary and important tool for our Christian walk.

However, what takes place from one corporate prayer service to the next is equally important, if not more so. Are we found daily spending time in personal prayer, developing our relationship with the Father? This is His time to speak with us about our intimate matters. He desires to expose us to the more of Him while revealing to us who He is molding us to become. The more we get to know Him, the more we become aware of our shortcomings and our desire to grow and change for the better increases.

# WE MUST DEVELOP A PERSONAL PRAYER LIFE IF WE WANT TO KNOW GOD MORE INTIMATELY.

If we tend to only communicate with a person in a group setting, for example, that person, at best, can be labeled as an acquaintance. That acquaintanceship will never move to a friendship without the two people getting to know one another on a deeper level, through personal one-on-one time. So it

is with our relationship with God the Father. If we only speak with Him during corporate prayer and rarely spend quality personal time in prayer, we will only scratch the surface of getting to know Him and building a relationship with Him.

It is through this intimate time that

we really get to know Him.

If you are concerned about not knowing how to pray during your personal prayer time, Jesus left us a guide. Luke 11:1-4 reads: "Now it came to pass, as He was praying in a certain place, when He ceased, that one of His disciples said to Him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples." So He said to them, "When you pray, say: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven. Give us day by day our daily bread. And forgive us our sins, For we also forgive everyone who is indebted

to us. And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one."

This prayer is affectionately known as "The Lord's Prayer." Do you need to pray this specific prayer? No. However, this prayer should be used as a guide to ensure that our prayers cover the various topics that should be

Kelley, director of the COGIC Intercessory Prayer Ministry and National Prayer Leader, COGIC Women's Department. This humble and warm woman of God shared with me her healing and deliverance testimony and how the Lord directed her steps into a life of intercessory prayer for God's people. The following are excerpts from our conversation:

APPROACH GOD IN ADORATION OR REVERENCE.

ACKNOWLEDGE GOD'S WILL IN ALL THINGS.

ASK GOD TO MEET YOUR NEEDS.

CONFESS THE SIN IN YOUR LIFE AND FORGIVE OTHERS. EXPECT GOD'S DELIVERANCE.

addressed. The Lord's Prayer is broken out as follows:

In preparation for writing this article, I had the privilege of speaking with Evangelist Frances

**TWT:** Why is personal prayer important?

**Evangelist Kelley:** "Personal prayer is simply communicating with God. It is important because you cannot love a person without

communicating with them; you cannot walk with a person without communicating with them and you certainly cannot expect anything from them without communicating with them."

**TWT:** Were you always aware that there was a call on your life for intercessory prayer?

Evangelist Kelley: "No, not at all. I was raised by my grandparents and never lived with my parents. My grandparents did not focus on the things of God. At the age of 16, I began singing with a teen group, performing on the radio and at various venues. I spent many years singing in night clubs, seeking people who could help me get ahead in show business. Although my grandparents were good to me, I never felt loved. I remember at the age of 9 being in my grandfather's woodshed asking God, 'Why doesn't anyone love me?' I always felt alone...but in strange way, not alone."

TWT: What was the process God took you through to reveal His plan of intercessory prayer for your life?

Evangelist Kelley: "Around 1968, I came home to Memphis from Detroit, sick unto death. I had an enlarged heart and a goiter on my throat. The town doctor was white and did not see black patients. Convinced by his maid to see me, the doctor allowed me to come in through the back door after hours. He examined me and found that my heart was too damaged to be help. As well, the medicine he prescribed, I couldn't afford. I thought I was going to die! I reached out to an old friend and found that she was now saved and leading house prayers

throughout Memphis. I begin following her to the various house prayers and the Lord completely healed me. I started being asked to share my testimony at various churches.

Somewhere around 1970, I was called upon to give my testimony during a service where the late Mother Elsie Shaw heard my story and was moved. The next service that I was in with Mother Shaw. she asked me to come up and sing. As the service moved forward, she began praying and laying hands on the saints. As she began laying hands she turned to me, handed me the microphone and said, 'Pray little lady!' I later became a member of Mother Shaw's prayer team, and my work of intercessory prayer began."

**TWT:** When were you appointed as the director of COGIC's Intercessory Prayer Ministry and the Women's Department national prayer leader?

Evangelist Kelley: "Although I had been operating in the roles for a number of years, I was officially installed in these roles in 2008 by Bishop Charles E. Blake, Presiding Prelate of the COGIC."

**TWT:** What do you experience during your personal prayer time that is different from your corporate pray time?

Evangelist Kelley: "I am able to speak to God in an intimate way. I am able to say things to God that I would not reveal corporately. That is my time for Him to deal with Frances!"

The Father wants us to move from religion to relationship. He wants us to move from praying only

when there is a corporate call for prayer or when we find ourselves in a dilemma. He wants us to move to a place where we desire to pray, unprompted by others; enjoy being in His presence; where we eagerly look forward to sitting, kneeling or laying in His presence; where we set time aside each day to meet Him and spend time with Him; and finally, where we can sense His presence drawing us into prayer and we quickly obey His call. The Father wants a relationship with us!

BECAUSE THE ENEMY
DOES NOT WANT US
TO PRAY, WE MUST
PRESS OUR WAY INTO
THE PRESENCE OF
THE FATHER. WE
MUST FIGHT AGAINST
OUR FLESH TO MAKE
TIME FOR PERSONAL
PRAYER.

Our personal prayer time must be intentional. Psalms 55:16-17 declares, "As for me, I will call upon God and the Lord shall save me. Evening, and morning, and at noon, will I pray, and cry aloud: and He shall hear my voice."

We must be relentless in our conviction to spend personal prayer time. In the 6th chapter of Daniel, when a firm decree went out that for 30 days no one could ask a petition of any god or man, except for King Darius, Daniel did not waver in his covenant with God to pray. Knowing that the consequence was death if he was found praying, he kept his prayer covenant and went before God 3

times a day! In the end, although sentenced to death, God delivered Daniel from the hand of his enemies and gave him the victory! When we yield our heart, mind and body to allow God to strip us of ourselves and to pour the more of His likeness into us, there is no limit on what He will do in and through us!

## FINAL THOUGHTS FROM EVANGELIST FRANCES KELLEY:

"God has an SOS out – WANTED AND NEEDED, PRAYER WARRIORS! He is looking for intercessors. He is looking for people that will war in the spirit realm and not give up. It's not about what you look like or what title you have. He is looking for a heart that is dedicated and faithful to Him. He is looking for a heart that will trust that He will answer. For I have no confidence in the flesh. I trust not the sweetest frame, but wholly lean on Jesus' name."

You can read more about this humble servant of God in her book entitled, **Better Than I Was.**This book has been reprinted and is now available through the COGIC Bookstore at:

www.cogicpublishinghouse.net.

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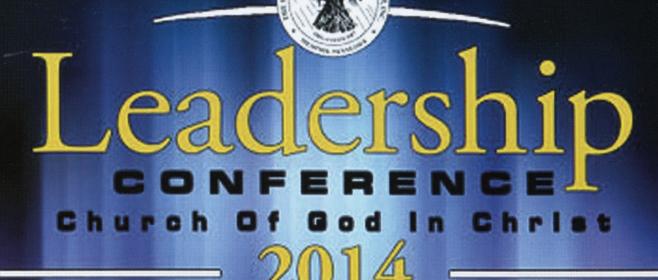
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## REDISCOVERING ME, REDISCOVERING YOU

With Dr. Michelle Jackson-McCoy



There are times when Christians treat their marriages in the same manner. You've been together so many years and your marriage is such a familiar place that you could walk through your routines, familiar patterns and rituals with your eyes closed. Years later, you look at your spouse with love and find yourself challenged to rediscover that spark again. Suddenly, you're turning to God (with all of those familiar scriptures memorized and swirling in your head) and asking Him for a "word" for your marriage.

So often we arrive in difficult places in life and can be found asking God for a "word." There is a song that says "...we need a word from you, we need to hear from you...if we don't hear from you what will we do..." But God has already said a lot.

## God Has Already Said A Lot

Many Christians arrive at a place in their lives when they have walked with God and searched His Word for so many years, they read their Bibles and gloss over familiar scripture in lightning speed. You have heard those scriptures a million times, can quote them in your sleep, and are excited to join the pastor aloud when they are recited in the midst of a sermon. What if you were to shift your values from taking pride in knowing the scriptures and begin taking pride in truly hearing, understanding and experiencing every benefit from those scriptures that God intended?

Most people can quote Genesis 2:24, "Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh." Did you know the word "cleave" or "join" is written in the active tense and indicates the person is pursuing hard or in pursuit of something? So that scripture actually reads, "Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall join and continually pursue his wife..." God knew that couples would need to keep their passion for one another alive.

Then there is Philippians 2:2-4 which instructs us on how to have harmony in our relationships.

The scripture provides 6 keys to harmonious living:

- 1) Having the same love for each other;
- 2) Being united in spirit;
- **3)** Having the same values and goals;
- 4) Allowing nothing to be done with selfish ambition or conceit:
- 5) Each regarding the other better than themselves; and
- 6) Being as concerned for the needs of your spouse as you are for your own affairs. And one only needs to read Song of Solomon to realize that God intended relationships to be driven by passion.

As you can see, God has already said a lot! Today, I chal-

lenge Christian couples to not only take pride in reading their Bibles, but take pride in sitting with the Word until you receive revelation from it. God created the institution of marriage and He has volumes to say about sustaining and restoring the joy and fulfillment He intends for you to experience. God knew there would be challenging times so He wrote about what to do when you arrive in hard places. He knew the enemy would attempt to steal, kill and destroy, so He wrote about how to recognize and defuse the attacks. Interestingly, God also writes passage after passage about having the eyes to see and the ears to hear. Matthew 13:16 explains that we see with our eyes, we hear with our ears, but we understand with our hearts. I challenge every couple reading this article to go back to those familiar places in God's Word with open eyes, listening ears and a heart that hungers for understanding. Hear the anointed revelation that is waiting there for you!

-A special "thank you" for all the wonderful comments that so many of you have sent. **TWT** 

To submit questions for his column please email drmichelle@cogic.org

Dr. Michelle Jackson-McCoy, a graduate from UCLA, became a lecturer of psychology at Loyola Marymount University, directed human development research for the largest think tank in the United States, has written numerous publications, launched several successful national projects, and now has developed a powerful new and innovative ministry titled *Rediscovering Me, Rediscovering You*, a marriage encounter for the enhancement and restoration of marriages worldwide.

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# The Truth About

By Uleses C. Henderson, Jr.

Preachers' kids (PKs) often get a bad rap. With reality shows like The Preacher's Daughter and movies like The Preacher's Kid, PKs are typically stereotyped as being buck-wild, mischievous, promiscuous, off-the-chain and just complete loose cannons. I have to admit that growing up as a preacher's kid, most people tried to put me in a box and would always tell me that I would be a preacher, just like my father. And while I, of course, did not have a problem with the idea of serving the Lord like my father, I did, however, want to chart my own path and create my own legacy.

#### I AM PROUD TO SAY THAT I AM A THIRD-GENERATION MEMBER OF THE CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST with deep

roots in the church. My grandfather, Elder Roosevelt Tuggle, Sr., was a pioneering COGIC pastor in Southern California.



My grandfather
was appointed
by the late
Bishop E.R.
"Louie" Driver
in the late
1930's to take
over Open
Door Church
of God in
Christ, a
storefront
church in

Duarte, California, where my grandfather served for nearly 60 years. My father, who is also an elder in the Church of God in Christ, served as my grandfather's assistant pastor for many years and continues to serve as the assistant pastor of Faith Center

Ministries in Walnut, California. My dad's brother, the late Bishop W.B. Henderson, founded Trinity Temple Church of God in Christ in Grandview, Missouri and was the founding prelate of the Missouri Western 2nd Jurisdiction. In fact,



most of my father's brothers are or were preachers, or served in other areas in ministry, so there was no question that I would be pegged as a preacher.

However, growing up I was fascinated with space exploration. As a kid, I loved to watch TV shows like Battle of the Planets, Star Trek, and Voltron: Defenders of the Universe. It was my dream to be an astronaut and the first black to step foot on the moon. My grandfather was my biggest supporter because after I went off to college, every time I came home for break, my grandfather would ask me, "Have you made it to the moon yet?" Of course he knew that I had not been to the moon,



but he wanted me to know that I was free to dream. And

while I never made it to the moon, God did bless me to obtain a Masters in Aerospace Engineering and to work for the National Space and Aeronautics Administration (NASA) as a rocket scientist.

Yet, my foundation came from the church; I was a church baby. I remember being in church ALL day, sleeping on the church pews, attending church anniversaries, youth congresses and who can forget, tarrying on the altar for the Holy Ghost. I think that I caught the Holy Ghost every summer because I managed to lose my religion during the school year. I remember getting so tired of tarrying on the altar that I just started making up gibberish just so the altar workers would leave me alone and let me go back to my seat. But little did I know, God was actually working on me.

Proverbs 22:6 (KJV) tells us, "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." Of course we have learned that this scripture refers to one's natural gifts, and that when parents train up their children to exercise their natural gifts, they will develop the skills to perfect those gifts. But I also believe that this scripture literally means what it says: that if you train up a child to love the Lord, that child will not depart from loving Him. For Ephesians 6:4 tells us to bring up our children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

I learned to love, yet fear the Lord at any early age. This is why I can testify that I've never been drunk, I've never experimented with drugs, and I've never been incarcerated. God's hand of protection has

shielded me all of my life. Sure, there were times

when I wanted to do the wrong thing, I wanted to hang out with the crowd, but God made it awkward and uncomfortable for me. I didn't understand it then, but I now understand that God had a purpose and a plan for my life.

I Peter 2:9 tells us that we are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people [peculiar, not meaning weird, but God's special possession]. As such, we are to show forth the praises of He who has called us out of darkness, into His marvelous light. It is quite common to praise people with hard-luck stories and, indeed, we praise God for their stories and the fact that God has blessed them to overcome. But we also need to praise God for those persons who have obeyed and respected their parents, remained in the church, received an education, and have tried to live right because their testimonies are equally,

if not more, powerful.

Yes, being a preacher's kid has certain restrictions. Looking back, there were times when I wanted to go to parties but I couldn't go to parties. I wanted to play on little league sports teams but I couldn't because the team played games on Sundays. But I would never change any of that because it made me who I am. Young people aren't taught to fear the Lord anymore, that's why they feel comfortable coming into the house of God with pierced ears and tattoos all over their bodies. But what do you think is going to happen when, a few years down the road, they go on a job interview? How you present yourself to others reflects how you think of yourself. This also applies to how we present ourselves to God. We were taught that dressing up on Sunday reflects our attitude for worship. If we can dress-up to go to a club or a concert, then we should have no problem dressing up to come into the house of the Lord. But, we've gotten too common with God. We feel that we can enter into his presence casually, and this has become the mentality of our youth. But I am glad that I was taught differently.

So I salute my parents and grandparents because they kept me in church, yet they allowed me to be who I wanted to be. They saw greatness in me and wanted me to be something greater than what they were. In fact, my father wanted to be an engineer. Although he never became an engineer, God blessed his son to become one—who knows what God has in store for my son. Neither of my parents have a college degree, but all three of their children have degrees from four-year colleges.

My parents never pushed me into ministry. They just prayed for me and trusted my decisions,

believing that God was in my heart and ordering my steps. When I told them my aspirations to pursue law after engineering, I know that they did not understand how it would all come together. But they supported me, not knowing that God was preparing me

for the position that he has

elevated me to hold for this season. And I thank God for our Presiding Bishop who has mentored me and given me an opportunity to serve our great church.

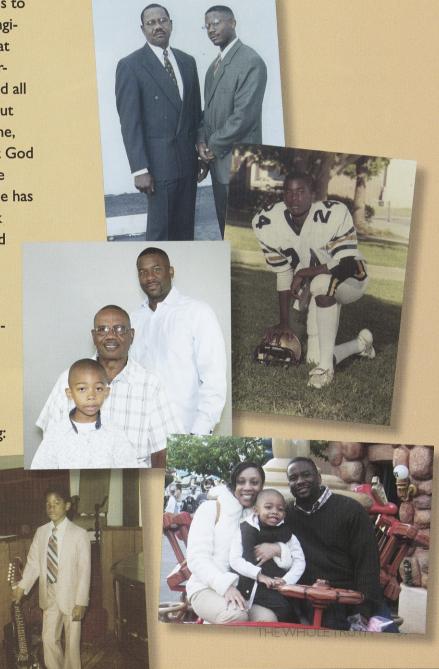
So, in closing, I have been blessed to be a preacher's kid and I want to encourage other PKs to understand that being a preacher's kid is not a curse, but a gift. God has great things in store for you. Believe me, I know what it's like to live in a fish bowl, but be confident of this very thing:

He who has begun a good work in you shall perform it until the day of the Lord, Jesus Christ. As one great man once prophesied: I see you in the future and you look much better than you look right now. **TWT** 

## HOW YOU PRESENT YOURSELF TO OTHERS REFLECTS HOW YOU THINK OF YOURSELF.

THIS ALSO APPLIES TO HOW WE PRESENT OURSELVES TO GOD.

Attorney Uleses Henderson, Jr. serves as General Counsel for the Church Of God In Christ.



# CONGRATULATIONS

TO Mr. & Mrs. George McCullough!

"Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother and shall cleave unto his wife and the two shall be one flesh." (Genesis 2:24 - KJV)

By Elder David Perry

The Scriptures declare that two shall be one flesh: not one alone in purpose, but one in soul, spirit, physical intimacy, goals, mindset - together in love and life. On August 3, 2013, Elder George McCullough and Professor Iris Stevenson were joined in holy matrimony in Los Angeles, California.

With a complete come one-come all guest list to include church leaders, celebrities, foreign delegates from Japan, Korea, and all over Europe, all were serenaded by a string orchestra while waiting with bated breath for the ceremony to begin. As the choir took center stage, Bishop H. Murphy prayed. By the end of the first selection from the choir, the Spirit of God took complete control of the service, all the way to



what we will call the couple's first Holy Ghost dance.

The Stevenson-McCullough wedding was more than a commemoration of two uniting as one; it was indeed a worship celebration. Dr. Stevenson-McCullough has never given birth physically, yet she has mothered thousands, showing love to numerous young people with her unique brand of tough love; a love that was reciprocated on August 3, 2013.

The McCulloughs will reside in Los Angeles while Lady Stevenson-McCullough continues to travel around the globe and chair the Performing Arts Department at Crenshaw High School. Elder George McCullough, an executive with a major airline, will continue to minister the Good News, declaring that God is everything we need.



We wish the happy McCullough couple many years of blessed wedding bliss.

## TRENDING NOW

By Cheryl Pearson-McNeil



## **BLACK CONSUMERS SHOULD** UNDERSTAND THEIR POWER

Marketers are very interested in knowing what you buy and how you make decisions to purchase. As black women, we hold more power than we may know -- the power of the purse.

Nielsen is committed to accurately measuring a broad range of consumer behavior representing a wide range of ethnicities, cultures and organizations worldwide. I've been with the company since 2004. One of my responsibilities is increasing awareness of Nielsen's brand to help multi-cultural consumers understand how valuable ethnic communities are to the market research process. I also help further the company's community and civic outreach efforts by engaging news media, elected officials, community leaders and clients to foster a better understanding of and relationships with consumers of all types.

Nielsen's "African American Consumers: Still Vital, Still Growing" 2012 report, which was done in collaboration with the National Newspaper Publishers Association. shows the spending power of the African American community. Forty-three million African Americans live in the United States, making up 13.7 percent of the total population and constituting the

second largest racial minority in the country. Collectively, African Americans have buying power that will reach an estimated \$1.1 trillion by 2015.

Even with these impressive numbers, most mainstream advertisers do not include African Americans in media and marketing plans, and they underestimate the market size.

This is a missed opportunity because the black population is growing at a faster rate than the white population. Since 2000, the total U.S. population only increased by 11.3 percent, while the black population increased by 17.9 percent, a rate that is 1.6 times greater than overall growth.

In addition, the study found that the African American demographic is younger, more educated and more affluent than commonly believed.

According to the study, from 2000 to 2009, the number of African

Americans attending some college or earning degrees has grown, now at 45 percent of men and 54 percent of women. Households

nielsen

earning \$75,000 or more grew by more than 60 percent, faster than the rest of the population. The average income for African Americans nationwide is \$47,290.

Within the African American family, women direct most of the consumer spending, and a black household is 127 percent more likely to include a single parent, most often a woman, according to the Nielsen study. As we know, grandparents also wield tremendous influence.

"There is also a strong cultural precedent for intergenerational family members living in one household," the study said.

"Almost 19 percent of grandparents living with their grandchildren are African American, and 48 percent of black grandparents who live in the same household with their grandchildren serve as their primary caregivers."

Another Nielsen study, "Women of Tomorrow U.S. Multicultural Insights 2011," also found that women in general tend to be optimistic that their roles were changing for the better: 94 percent of Hispanic women, 90 percent of African American women, 90 percent of Caucasian women and 86 percent of Asian American women.

African American women (59 percent) also saw themselves as likely to be able to contribute more to their households over the next five years, as did Hispanic women (49%), while a majority of Asian-American (40%) and Caucasian women (33%) expected no change in how much they contribute.

Here and across the globe, women are responsible for \$12 trillion of the \$18 trillion of global buying power. So, if marketers want our business, they need to offer products and services that reflect our needs. Corporations that offer products

that appeal to the black consumer would do well to understand the spending power of black women, especially single mothers and grandmothers. African American women spend too much money with companies to be ignored.

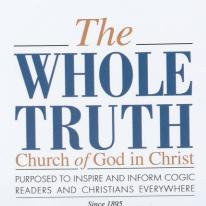
#### **TWT**

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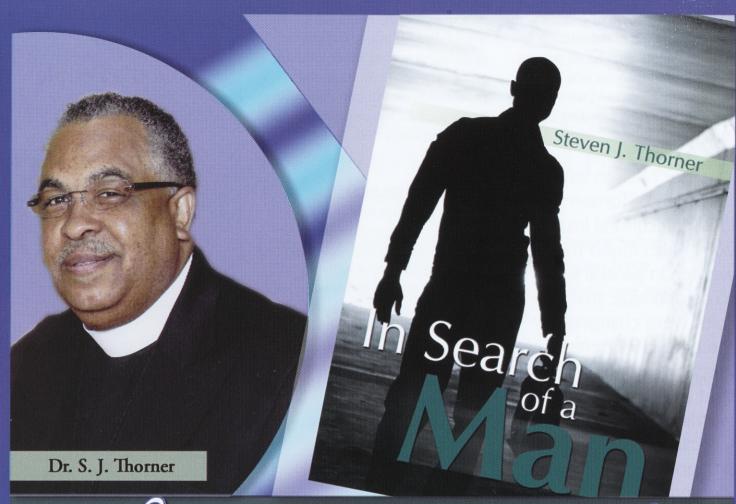
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Cheryl Pearson-McNeil is a senior vice president of public affairs and government relations for Nielsen, a global information and measurement company with leading market positions in marketing and consumer information, television and other media measurement, online intelligence, mobile measurement, trade shows and related properties. You can follow her on Twitter, @Powerfulpenny or contact her at cheryl. pearson-mcneil@nielsen.com.

# Good News for God's People



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# Why Man Continues To Hile ...

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There is an increasing call for decent and virtuous men to surface as leaders, fathers, mentors, tutors and the list goes on. God has bestowed men the capability and morality, both of which should not be put to waste for the reason of mere ignorance, cowardice and weakness. A book that empowers and spiritually enriches readers, **In Search of a Man** is a moral and spiritual wake up call for men to walk upright with pride and dignity once again for a better world.

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## COGIC: DID YOU KNOW?

With President Mack C. Mason



# Chicago Centenarian Mother Alva D. Roberts, a Living Legend and Eyewitness to COGIC History

Six years after Bishop Charles Harrison Mason returned from the Azusa Street Revival in Los Angeles, California where he received the baptism in the Holy Ghost, Alva Doris Johnson was born to Frank and Nina Johnson. Alva would later have a role in shaping the Church of God in Christ in Chicago.

Six years after Bishop Charles Harrison Mason returned from the Azusa Street Revival in Los Angeles, California where he received the baptism in the Holy Ghost, Alva Doris Johnson was born to Frank and Nina Johnson. Alva would later have a role in shaping the Church of God in Christ in Chicago.

After Bishop Mason returned from the Azusa Street Revival, his testimony was not accepted by all. Some of his brethren and former co-laborers led by Charles Price Jones, rejected his experience and the initial evidence doctrine (speaking with unknown tongues). They voted to withdraw their fellowship from Bishop Mason, ousting him from the organization that he co-founded in 1895 and named in 1897. However, there were those who stood with him. These bold men answered Mason's call to a meeting at the South Fork Pickering Church (now known as Greater Harvest Church of God in Christ) in Memphis. This reorganizational meeting was known as the first Pentecostal Assembly of the Church of God in Christ. It was at this meeting that Elder Mason was chosen unanimously as General Overseer.

Among those attending was preacher-entrepreneur William Matthew Roberts. Elder Roberts served as a

deacon and later as assistant pastor to Bishop Mason. According to Shelby County (Tennessee) records, he was the best man at Bishop Mason's wedding in 1905. A little more than a decade later. Elder Roberts relocated to Chicago, IL to serve as pastor to Lillian Brooks Coffey and other praying women in 1916. Around the

same time, a young COGIC evangelist named Ozro Thurston Jones, Sr. was being used by God to spread Bishop Mason's dual message of holiness and Holy Ghost power across America's Heartland. This was before Jones was dispatched by Bishop Mason to Philadelphia, PA during the mid-1920s, where he would pastor Holy Temple COGIC. Reports of Jones' revival meetings in Pittsburg, Kansas began to spread. It was through a family member of Alva's parents that news of Jones' ministry reached Frank Johnson and his wife Nina in Iowa. Along with their only daughter Alva, the Johnsons joined with the Church of God in Christ



in Iowa under Bishop Ford Washington McGee. In 1926, F.W. McGee was among Gospel's earliest recording artists, backing Arizona Dranes on her sides for OKeh Records. The following year, Bishop McGee and his congregation recorded such songs as *Jonah in the Belly of the Whale* for the Victor Recording Company. McGee served as Overseer of Iowa but later moved his church to Chicago after successful tent meetings there.

In 1933, William M. Roberts and Ozro Thurston Jones, Sr. were among five bishops consecrated by Senior Bishop Mason at the Holy Convocation in Memphis (Bishop O.T. Jones, Sr. would later become Senior Bishop after the passing of Senior Bishop Mason in 1961). By the early 1930s, Alva Johnson had moved with her parents to Chicago, IL where they worshipped with Elder P. R. Favors' congregation. After Alva married Edward Cooper, they began attending Saints Home COGIC in nearby Gary, Indiana, pastored by Elder C.E. Bennett (later Bishop Bennett). It was while working in Gary that Alva's husband was killed in an accident. Later, Frank Johnson began to hear about Elder William Roberts' Chicago church, known then simply as Fortieth Street. Frank Johnson often worked on Sundays and the Fortieth Street Church was closer and more convenient for his wife and

widowed daughter to attend. Alva always loved going to church and was soon greatly involved at Fortieth. She especially loved singing in the choir and working with the YPWW. She was there in 1939 when Bishop Wil-

liam Roberts and Fortieth Street hosted Bishop Ozro Thurston Jones and the National Youth Congress.

A short time after the passing of her husband, Alva received a rather odd request from Bishop Roberts' wife for a photograph to send to her son, Isaiah, who was away at the time. Alva was unaware but on the back of the photo, Mother Mamie Roberts wrote, "Momma's choice for you. Don't let her get away." Upon his return, the courtship between Isaiah and Alva was quickly underway and they were married in 1939. Alva worked faithfully by the side of the young evangelist and later, his popularity as a broadcaster and pastor led to his series of Church of God in Christ choir recordings on the Vee Jay Records label. In 1955, the year following his father's death,

Isaiah was appointed pastor of Roberts Temple COGIC by Bishop J.S. Bailey of Detroit, MI. Prior to Bishop Roberts' passing, Dr. Arenia Mallory and Bishop Louis Henry Ford had spearheaded the renaming of the Fortieth Street Church to Roberts Temple COGIC in October 1953. Bishop Roberts passed away on his 78th birthday, May 10, 1954, during the International Women's Convention.

As first lady of Roberts
Temple, Alva was loving and endearing
to all. She continued working with the
YPWW, the Pastor's and Minister's
Wives Alliance, singing in the Radio
Choir and with the Gospel Pearls. With
Isaiah's consecration as Bishop in
1980 by the late Presiding Bishop J.O.
Patterson, Sr., she became first lady

Historical Society has been trusted to digitize Mother Alva Roberts' collection of family and COGIC memorabilia. The historical collection includes books, papers, photos and phonograph records. There are also vintage audio reels from Brother Isaiah's broadcasts, including excerpts from the 50th National Holy Convocation held in Memphis in 1957. Also included are telegrams received upon the death of Bishop William Roberts in 1954. Among the many condolences received are those from Bishop C.H. Mason and Temple COGIC in Memphis, as well as leading Chicago pastors Rev. Louis Boddie and Rev. Clarence Cobbs. The preservation and digitization of this important collection will assist re-



of historic Northern Illinois. Bishop Isaiah Roberts died nearly 25 years ago and since the time of his passing, Mother Alva Roberts has remained steadfastly the same. She has been the epitome of faithfulness to her local church, jurisdiction, denomination and to her God.

In addition to her ministry service, Mother Roberts has been a tremendous historical resource. In such books as *Shout Sister Shout: the Rosetta Tharpe Story, Singing in My Soul, and Saints in the Land of Lincoln,* you will find her many eyewitness accounts, which have aided the respective authors, Gayle Wald, Jerma Jemison, and yours truly. Her own personal memoir, *My Life with Brother Isaiah*, was published in 2008.

The Charles Harrison Mason

searchers for years and years to come.

This fall, Mother Alva Roberts will celebrate her 100th Birthday doing what she loves - praising God with her tambourine at her home church, Roberts Temple COGIC in Chicago. Look for her at the upcoming International Holy Convocation in St. Louis, MO.

The Church of God in Christ and the world have been recipients of God's love and grace through the loyal and faithful service of Mother Alva Doris Roberts. Her's is a life to be honored and emulated.

For more information about the Charles Harrison Mason Historical Society and our National Landmark Church recognitions, visit our website at www.chmhs.org, or you may email mmason@cogic.org.

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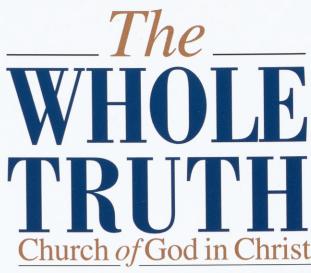
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